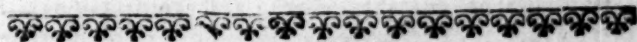


THE
HISTORY
OF

Femmy and Fenny Fessamy:

VOL. II.



Just publish'd,

By T. GARDNER, at *Cowley's Head* in the *Strand*,

(Price Bound Ten Shillings)

In TWO VOLUMES, OCTAVO,

A NEW EDITION of

Epistles for the Ladies.

By the AUTHORS of

The FEMALE SPECTATOR.

- ‘ The Character of this Work is in general so well
‘ known, as not to need a Recommendation ; but
‘ as some particular Persons may be unacquainted
‘ with it, it is hoped it will not offend the Mo-
‘ delly of its Authors, just to cite a few of the
‘ Epithets given to it by some of the most distin-
‘ guishing Judges of the present Age. — As —
“ That it is the best adapted for improving the
“ Morals, and refining the Taste. — That a just
“ and proper Spirit breathes through the Whole.
“ — That it imperceptibly makes its Readers
“ wiser. — That it exalts the Ideas, — That it is a
“ polite and elegant Advocate for private Virtue.
“ — That tho’ it seems by the Title to be princi-
“ pally intended for the Service of the Fair Sex,
“ yet there is not a Man of the greatest Genius
“ but may be pleasingly amused. — That its Lan-
“ guage is elegant, clear, and conspicuous. —
“ That its Stories are so affectingly related, that
“ whoever reads them will find the Passions sin-
“ gularly moved. — That it is judiciously blend-
“ ed with Instruction and Entertainment. — That
“ it insensibly discovers the Means of being
“ happy in ourselves. — That it is an admirable
“ Lesson for the Young and Unexperienced. —
“ That it points out such Foibles in ourselves, as
“ for want of being observ’d, frequently entail
“ the greatest Uneasinesses. — That it is peculiar-
“ ly adapted to the reigning Habits of the present
“ Times, &c. &c.”

THE
HISTORY

Eliza S OF *Slogd*

Femmy and Fenny Jessamy.

V O L. II.

By the AUTHOR of
The HISTORY of *Betsy Thoughtless.*

Kaywood, Mrs. Eliza (Mother)

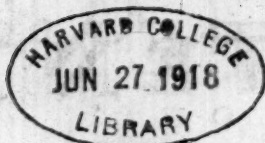


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HISTORY

O F

Jemmy and Jenny Jessamy.

VOL. II.

CHAP. I.

Discovers something which may serve to prove, that though love is the original source from which jealousy is derived, yet the latter of these passions is the most difficult of the two to be conceal'd, and also less under the government of reason.



HERE are so many secret windings, such obscure recesses in the human mind, that it is very difficult, if not wholly impossible, for speculation to arrive at the real spring or first mover of any action whatsoever.

VOL. II.

B

How

How indeed should it be otherwise, as the most virtuous and the most vicious propensities of nature are frequently in a more or less degree lodged and blended together in the same composition, and both equally under the influence of a thousand different passions, which disguise and vary the face of their operations, so as not to be distinguish'd even by the persons themselves.

It has already been observ'd, that there were some peculiarities in the humour and conduct of lady Speck, which she had policy and prudence enough to conceal entirely from the world; and though not the most intimate of her acquaintance, nor even her sister, could ever penetrate into the secret motives of a behaviour, which to them seem'd frequently pretty strange, it is fit the reader should not be deny'd that satisfaction, at least as far as the above-mentioned premises will admit.

As her ladyship had found very little happiness in marriage, she had been too much rejoiced at being released from that bondage by the death of her husband, ever to think of entering into the same state a second time; but having observ'd that this was commonly the profession of
all

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all widows, and as commonly ridiculed by those who heard it, she forbore making any mention of her resolution in this point.

She had very little vanity in her composition, but loved a variety of company;—she was pleas'd to find herself continually surrounded by a crowd of gentlemen; but had been equally, if not more so, if they had visited her on any other score than that of courtship: she behaved to each of them so much alike, that jealousy was a thing unknown among these rivals; and as none of them had any great cause to hope, so likewise none of them thought he had cause to despair of being one day the happy man; and her youth,—her beauty,—her wit,—her fortune, made her appear too valuable a prize not to persevere in the pursuit of.

Thus easy, thus happy in herself, and delightful to all that saw her, did she live and reign the general toast and admiration of the town; when Celandine arriv'd from his travels, full fraught with all those superficial accomplishments so enchanting to the unthinking part of the fair sex.

What attracts the eye is too apt to have an influence over the heart ;— his agreeable person, — his gaudy equipage, and the shew he made, dazzled the senses of even those who most affected to be thought wits ;—he was the theme of every tea-table, and the chief object for whom the arts of the toilet were employ'd.

Lady Speck had heard much of him before she saw him, but he was soon introduced to her acquaintance by a lady who frequently visited her, and had always spoke wonders in his praise ; whether it were that she was prepossess'd by the good opinion she found others had of him, or whether it was to himself alone he was indebted for the impression he made on her is uncertain ; but nothing can be more true, than that at first sight she felt for him what she had never done for any man after whole years of assiduity.

It is also altogether as impossible to determine if it was by any kind looks he perceived in her towards him, or by the great confidence he had in his own merits, that he was emboldened to declare himself her lover ; it was, however, either to the one or the other that she owed
the

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the triumph of this new conquest, and he had not made her many visits before she was confirm'd of it by the most violent protestations that tongue could utter.

It seem'd, notwithstanding, extremely strange to her, that amidst all the testimonies he endeavour'd to give her of his love, he never once mention'd marriage; but, on the contrary, would frequently in her presence ridicule the institution, — say it was a clog upon inclinations, and only fit to link two people together who had no notion of the true joys of love, or of living politely in the world.

He often had the impudence even to repeat to her, in justification of his prophane position, all the lines he could remember from any of the poets who had exercised their talents in satirising that sacred ceremony; particularly these of mr. Dryden:

Marriage, thou curse of love, and snare
of life!

That first debas'd a mistress to a wife!

Love, like a scene, at distance should
appear,

But marriage views the gross-daub'd
landscape near.

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Love's nauseous cure! thou cloy'st
 whom thou should'st please,
 And when that's cur'd, then thou art
 the disease ;
 When hearts are loose, thy chain our
 bodies ties ;
 Love couples friends, but marriage
 enemies.

But his behaviour on this score gave her not the least disgust towards him ; —she was herself an enemy to marriage ; —and besides his estate, though large, was not an equivalent for that she was in possession of ; nor was any part of his character such as she thought becoming a man whom she would make a husband of ; —she nevertheless loved him, nor took any pains to repel the kindness which every day grew stronger for him in her heart ; —she was amused with his conversation, delighted with his addresses, look'd on him as a pretty plaything, —a charming toy which it would be doing too great a violence to her humour to throw away.

All this will doubtless give the reader no very favourable idea of her virtue ; but we will suppose it was only a platonic liking she had for him : —how far indeed, the dangerous liberties she allow'd

JEMMY *and* JENNY JESSAMY. 7

allow'd herself to take with him might have carried her, if they had been continued much longer, no one can pretend to say.

She was not, however, so much lost in the tender folly she indulg'd, as not to be perfectly sensible that the manner in which she conversed with Celandine could not, if known to the world, but occasion a great deal of discourse, little to the advantage of her reputation; and that it behoved her, above all things, to keep this secret of her soul from taking air:—to do this, she put in practice all the arts that a just fear of censure could inspire her with. —When Celandine was present with other company she affected to rally, and turn into bagatelle every thing he said or did; and when he was absent, to ridicule those vanities and fopperies which she had understanding enough to see in him, though not in reality to condemn him for. —She not only treated those gentlemen, who before made their addresses to her, with a greater shew of favour than she had been accustomed to do; but also encouraged every new offer of that kind that was presented to her; and this conduct proved effectual for the purpose she intended it, that no one person suspected Celandine was

among the number of her lovers, much less that he was the darling favourite of her bosom.

Being in this situation, it is easy to conceive what racks of mind she must sustain on the account that had been just given by mrs. M—— ;—to be told that Celandine had an amour, and to hear it averr'd by the very woman who had been her rival, was a mere trifle in comparison with what follow'd ;—that he was found in the close arbour with Jenny was the thing that stung her to the quick, when she remember'd that Celandine had met herself and sister in the walks, and how instead of squireing them as usual, he had only made a slight compliment and abruptly left them ; and that Jenny had excused herself from going out on account of some letters she said she had to write, it appear'd plainly to her, that he went not from the walks but with a design of going to Jenny ;—that she stay'd not at home but in expectation of his coming, and the appointment was previously agreed upon between them.

Most women have naturally so good an opinion of themselves, as not to believe easily that the man who has once lov'd

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lov'd them can transfer his affections to another, without some very extraordinary arts put in practice for that purpose by the new object.—Lady Speck thought herself as handsome as Jenny, and therefore concluded that the amorous inclination which Celandine had all at once testified for that young lady, could be owing to nothing but some advances made to him on her part.

How unjust and how cruel a passion is that of jealousy!—it destroys all the nobler principles of the soul,—it erases thence all the ideas of virtue, religion, and morality; it makes us not only condemn the innocent, and acquit the guilty, but also inspires us with the most savage and inhuman sentiments.—Lady Speck now hated her fair friend more than ever she had loved her; — her beauty, — her wit, — all those accomplishments which had excited her esteem, render'd her now the object of her aversion;—she was almost tempted to wish mrs. M—— had perpetrated her outrageous design, if not to the destruction of her life, yet, to the defacing of those charms which had triumph'd over her in the heart of Celandine; and was little less angry with him for having prevented the fatal blow

aimed against her rival, than she was for his falsehood to herself.

Of all the various agitations which by turns convulse and rend the human heart, there are none which instigate to more pernicious purposes, or bring on, if continued, more disastrous consequences; but the flame, however violent it may flash for the present, can have no long existence in a mind not wholly divested of all good nature and generosity;—cooler and more reasonable sentiments, on a little reflection, soon abated the force of those turbulent emotions which had taken possession of this lady's bosom; but as yet were not powerful enough to suppress them entirely; what effects follow'd, either of the one or the other, will hereafter appear,—but the conflict between them was for this time interrupted, by some company coming in, whom lady Speck was oblig'd to go down to receive, as they were more her guests than her sister's, and altogether strangers to Jenny.



~~XX~~

C H A P. II.

Contains a farther confirmation of the position advanc'd in the preceding chapter, and also some other particulars exciting the curiosity of the reader.

LADY Speck assumed a countenance as serene as possible to entertain, with her usual politeness, the persons who came to visit her ; but in spite of all her endeavours to appear entirely easy, she could not keep herself from darting such ill-natur'd glances on Jenny, whenever she look'd towards her, as must have been taken notice of by that young lady, if she had not been too much engross'd by her own thoughts to be capable of penetrating into those of another.

The company stay'd so late, that the instant they were gone the ladies retir'd to their respective chambers; Jenny, who had her mind no less employed than lady Speck, with the adventures of the day, was equally pleas'd to be alone and indulge meditation on what had pass'd.

The history of mrs. M—— had dwelt very much upon her mind; but what made the most deep impresson, was that part of it wherein she related the first motive which occasion'd her fall at once from happiness and from virtue, and consequently drew on her all those dreadful misfortunes with which at present she was encompass'd.

I believe the reader will easily remember, as the thing is of a pretty particular nature, how that unhappy woman in order to revive those ardors of affection in her husband, which she imagin'd were beginning to decay, had recourse to the dangerous stratagem of giving him a rival; and also how by coquetting with Celandine, and treating him with a shew of liking, the counterfeited flame kindled by degrees into a real one, and ended at length in her utter ruin and confusion.

The notions Jenny had of honour and generosity were too refin'd and delicate, not to make her look with the utmost contempt on all kinds of artifice, on what pretences soever they were put in practice:—this conduct of mrs. M——s, though considering what ensued, the least guilty part of her character, seem'd

to

to her so highly criminal, as well as weak and mean, that she could not help thinking it worthy of all the punishments it met with.

‘ How is it possible, cried she within herself, that a woman who truly loves virtue can be capable of putting on an appearance so much the reverse of it? What if at that time she had no intentions of gratifying the amorous inclinations of the man she sported with, to encourage them in him was a manifest violation, not only of modesty but likewise of religion, honour, and those solemn obligations she had enter’d into.

‘ Besides, continued she, this wretched creature seems not to want sense enough to know the heinousness of the fault she was guilty of, even in this first step to perdition;—yet she run boldly into it, and absolv’d herself on account of the good end she propos’d by it,—to regain the affections of her husband:—Oh! how ridiculous was such an attempt for doing so; as if any man of common reason would love his wife the better for suspecting she was about to commit the worst and most shameful action a woman can be guilty of!

‘ I have seen some young ladies, went she still on, that have made use of these little tricks to inspire jealousy in their lovers ; either to make trial of their constancy, or shew their own power by giving pain; this is certainly silly as well as cruel ; but what is no more than vanity and folly in them, is downright wickedness in a married woman.’

Thus did she pass some time in censuring the conduct of mrs. M—— ; but as she was of that happy turn of mind, to convert every thing which she either saw or heard of to her own advantage, and to make fresh improvements in herself by the misbehaviours of others, her reflections carried her yet farther, and remembrance presented her with an incident which happen’d long before she had the power of judging, but which she had heard much discourse of in her extreme youth,—it was this :

A person of great distinction happen’d to be married to a lady very young and beautiful ; she was a celebrated wit without being wise, and had the most romantick turn of mind ;—fancying herself a Statyra, she expected her husband should approach her with the obsequiousness of
an

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an Oroondates ;—he was little versed in histories of this nature ; and though he loved her very well, treated her as mere woman ;—the epithets of angel and goddess were strangers to his mouth ; and those he usually saluted her with were plain madam, or my dear ;—this disgusted her even in the first days of their marriage,—she look'd on such a behaviour as an indignity to her charms ;—her heart reproach'd the indelicacy of his manners, and half despised him for his want of taste ; nor did her tongue restrain itself from testifying how much she was dissatisfy'd at every thing he said or did.

The fashion in which he found himself used by her gave him some disquiet at first, but it lasted not long ;—though a man of sense, he was naturally indolent to an excess ;—he loved his ease too well to part with it on any consideration whatever ;—he never thought any thing worth attempting the pursuit of, which was likely to be attended with difficulty ;—and as he had never taken the pains to examine what it was that his wife expected from him, so he would have been equally negligent in gratifying her humour, if he had been better acquainted with it.

Their

Their way of living together grew every day still worse and worse ; as her haughty fullness increased, his carelessness of it increased in proportion ;—all the love they once had for each other turn'd into a mutual indifference, or rather a mutual aversion ;—she sought the food for her vanity among those who were of a disposition to indulge it ; and she found not a few to whom the glory of pleasing a lady of her beauty, birth, and accomplishments did not seem well worth all the flatteries they could address her with ; the husband, in the mean time, made himself not wretched on account of the gallantries she received, but fled for consolation to the arms of a more obliging and endearing fair.

They continued to live together, however, in the same house ; but slept not in the same bed, nor eat at the same table, except for decency sake, when company was there ; before whom they always behaved to each other with the greatest good manners and politeness imaginable.

But this was a constraint which neither of them could long support,—they parted by consent ;—after which her amours became

JEMMY and JENNY JESSAMY. 17

came the general topic of conversation ; till shunned by all her kindred, despised by her acquaintance, and slighted by those for whose sake she had sacrificed her reputation, she became sensible of her follies, and sought a reconciliation with her husband ; but all her endeavours for that purpose being in vain, she hated a place where she no longer had either friends or admirers, and went a voluntary exile into foreign parts, where grief and remorse soon put an end to her life.

This incident threw Jenny into the most serious contemplations on the human system ;—the many observations she had made, convinc'd her that vanity was in a more or less degree inherent to the whole species ; and that men as well as women were not exempt from it : and immediatly recollecting some passages she had seen which demonstrated this truth, ‘ Good God, cried she, how can
‘ any one be so fond of this idol frame,
‘ this poor machine, liable to be wither'd
‘ by every inclement blast that issues
‘ from the firmament ! Let the proud of
‘ heart read Gulliver's Voyages to the
‘ Houghims, and some other pieces of
‘ the same excellent author, and they
‘ will see and be ashamed to admire a
‘ body

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‘ body which requires such means to be
 ‘ sustain’d.—No, continu’d she, it is the
 ‘ mind which ought to be the chief ob-
 ‘ ject of our attention ; it is there alone
 ‘ we are either beautiful or deform’d ;
 ‘ and the pains we take to ornament and
 ‘ embellish that nobler part of us will
 ‘ not be thrown away.’

She was so taken up with these philo-
 sophic reflections, that she went not to
 bed till the beams of Aurora darting
 through the window curtains, reminded
 her how much she had lost of the time
 commonly allotted for repose.

It was somewhat more late than ordi-
 nary when she rose the next morning ;—
 on her coming down stairs she found the
 ladies already in the room where they
 always breakfasted; and guessing, by some
 circumstances, that she had made them
 wait, was beginning to apologize for her
 tardiness.

‘ Indeed, my dear, cried miss Wing-
 ‘ man interrupting her, we were afraid
 ‘ you were not well, and were just go-
 ‘ ing to send to your chamber :—But
 ‘ pray, continued she very gaily, let me
 ‘ examine your countenance, and see if
 ‘ that will tell me whether you are quite
 ‘ got

JEMMY and JENNY JESSAMY. 19

‘ got over the fright that terrible wo-
‘ man put you into yesterday.’

Jenny was about to make some answer; but lady Speck, who could not forgive her for the part she bore in that adventure, took up the word before the other had time to open her mouth, ‘ The
‘ fright was of little consequence,’ said she with an air which had something of derision in it, ‘ as she was deliver’d
‘ from the danger before she could have
‘ any apprehensions of it ;—but, there
‘ were other particulars that happen’d
‘ afterwards, which perhaps were of a
‘ yet more disagreeable nature, and might
‘ make a deeper impression.’

These words, and the tone in which they were spoke, gave Jenny an infinity of surprise, but without pausing to form any conjecture on the matter, ‘ You will
‘ pardon me, madam, cried she innocent-
‘ ly, if I am not able to comprehend
‘ your ladyship’s meaning ;—I know of
‘ no accident that happen’d afterwards ;
‘ or indeed, in which I had the least
‘ concern.’

‘ How weak is it, reply’d lady Speck,
‘ in people to endeavour to conceal a
‘ passion, which in spite of all they can
‘ do

‘ do will break out in every look and
 ‘ gesture ! I pity you from my soul, and
 ‘ had I sooner known the situation of
 ‘ your heart, would have contriv’d some
 ‘ way or other to have prevented mrs.
 ‘ M—— from being quite so open in
 ‘ her narrative ;—it must certainly be a
 ‘ very great shock to you to hear some
 ‘ passages she related ;—but, alas, I was
 ‘ intirely ignorant that Celandine loved
 ‘ you, or that you loved Celandine ; and
 ‘ little suspected that it was for his sake
 ‘ you so resolutely rejected the offers of sir
 ‘ Robert Manley.’

‘ I should be sorry, madam, reply’d
 ‘ Jenny very disdainfully, that your lady-
 ‘ ship, or any one else, should have so
 ‘ contemptible an opinion of my judg-
 ‘ ment.—I know but little of the gen-
 ‘ tlemen, yet know enough to make a
 ‘ just distinction between them ; and were
 ‘ my hand and heart at my disposal
 ‘ should not hesitate one moment to
 ‘ which of them I should give the pre-
 ‘ ference.’

‘ How cunning now you think you
 ‘ are, said lady Speck with an affected
 ‘ laugh,—you speak the truth but avoid
 ‘ mentioning the name : I will however
 do

JEMMY and JENNY JESSAMY. 21

do it for you, and answer in somewhat like the poet's words :

'Tis Celandine your heart would leap
to meet,
While Manley lay expiring at your
feet.

Scarce had Jenny the power to restrain her passion within the bounds of decency, on finding lady Speck persisted in so injurious an accusation ;—scorn and anger overwhelm'd her soul,—tears gush'd from her eyes,—and rising hastily from her seat,—‘ I will not imagine, madam, said she, that you are really in earnest in supposing such a thing ; but the jest is of such a nature as I do not think it becomes me to hear the continuance of.’

In speaking these words she was about to quit the room ; but miss Wingman, who had been a good deal astonish'd at what her sister had said, ran and pulled her back ;—but all her persuasions would have been ineffectual to have detain'd her, if lady Speck, having vented her ill humour ; and now repenting she had gone so far, had not added her intreaties.

‘ My

‘ My dear creature, cried she, I had
‘ not the least design to affront you; I only
‘ meant to rally you a little on your
‘ staying at home, when so fine a day
‘ called every body to the walks.’—‘ I
‘ should have deserved it, madam, an-
‘ swer’d she, if I had deny’d myself the
‘ pleasure of attending your ladyship on
‘ any other motive than what I really
‘ did;—but I assure you I wrote no less
‘ than five letters, as your own man can
‘ witness, whom, my own being out of
‘ the way, I took the liberty to send
‘ with them to the post-office.’

‘ I believe it, said lady Speck, I be-
‘ lieve it, and heartily ask your pardon.’
—She was going to add something more
by way of reparation for the vexation
she had given to that young lady, when
she was prevented by her woman, who
having been sent to a milliner’s for some
things she wanted, came running into
the room with a countenance as confus’d
and wild as if she had met some spectre
or apparition in her way :

‘ Oh madam ! cried she to her lady,
‘ I have the strangest thing to tell you,—
‘ the oddest accident ;—to be sure I was
‘ never so much surpris’d in all my life.’

‘ Prithee

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‘ Prithee at what, demanded lady Speck ?
‘ —Lord, madam, return’d she, I could
‘ not have thought such a thing of two
‘ such civil well-behaved gentlemen.—
‘ What gentlemen, said lady Speck ? ex-
‘ plain the mystery at once, and do not
‘ keep us in suspense by your unseason-
‘ able exclamations.

‘ Lord, madam, replied she, your
‘ ladyship will wonder when you know
‘ all as well as I ;—for my part I was so
‘ confounded that I scarce know which
‘ way I got home.—Just as I was step-
‘ ping into the milliner’s,—bless me, I
‘ shall never forget it ; but I will tell
‘ your ladyship as fast as I can :—Just
‘ as I was going into the shop, as I was
‘ saying, I heard a great noise in the
‘ street, and the sound of several men’s
‘ voices crying out,—Bring them along,
‘ —bring them along,—I turn’d about,
‘ as any one would do,—out of mere
‘ curiosity,—and,—would your ladyship
‘ believe it possible ?—who should I see
‘ but mr. Lovegrove and mr. Celandine
‘ in the hands of I know not how many
‘ rough fellows, and followed by a huge
‘ croud of all sorts of people.—I fancy
‘ they had been fighting, for both their
‘ swords were drawn and carried by one
‘ of the men that had hold of mr. Love-
‘ grove ;

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‘ grove ; I cannot directly say how that
 ‘ matter was ; but there was a strange
 ‘ confused noise among the mob ;—one
 ‘ cried it was a sad thing such broils
 ‘ should happen ;—and another that it
 ‘ would be a great prejudice to the
 ‘ town :—and all I could hear distinctly
 ‘ was, that they were going to carry the
 ‘ gentlemen before a justice of peace.’

All the ladies were very much concern’d at hearing this intelligence ; but lady Speck seem’d the most affected with it ; nor did the others at all wonder at her being so, as mr. Lovegrove was her declared admirer, and was allow’d by all that knew him to deserve more of her favour than he had as yet experienced.

They were all extremely impatient to know both the occasion and the consequence of this affair ; and lady Speck’s woman either having not enquir’d, or not been able to learn to what magistrate the gentlemen were carried, footmen were immediatly dispatch’d to every quarter of the town, in hopes of bringing home that information, which the reader shall presently be made acquainted with.

C H A P.





C H A P. III.

*Compleats the character of a modern
fine gentleman, or a pretty fellow
for the ladies.*

I Believe there are none into whose hands these volumes shall happen to fall, at least if they consider the story of mrs. M—— with any attention, but will easily perceive there was enough in it to give a very great alarm to a man so much enamour'd as mr. Lovegrove.

He had observed, that for some time before, as well as since their coming down to Bath, Celandine had been a constant dangler after lady Speck. — Love and jealousy are quick-sighted passions: — he thought also, that though she ridiculed and laugh'd at his assiduities, she was not so much displeased with them as she ought to have been.

This had frequently given him some uneasy apprehensions; but as there were several other gentlemen of worth and honour who made their addresses to lady Speck, as well as himself; and she had

never given him any assurance of distinguishing him above his competitors, he thought it would be too presuming in him to call her ladyship's conduct in question ; especially in regard to a man who did not publicly profess himself her lover, and whose person, character, and behaviour she always affected to despise.

But now to be told, that he had impudently boasted his coming down to Bath was on the invitation of a woman of quality, from whom he gave some hints of having received very extraordinary favours ; and to find that the person to whom he said this had any reason to guess the woman of quality he mention'd was no other than lady Speck, was such a shocking corroboration of his former suspicions as fired him with the extremest rage.

Whether lady Speck had in reality granted any favours to Celandine, or whether it was his own idle vanity alone, which had made him talk in the manner he had done, this generous lover thought it would become him to chastise the insolence of such a braggadocia ; but in what manner he should do so very much perplex'd him : to send him a challenge on this account he feared would make too great a noise, and consequently dis-
please

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please the lady whose honour he meant to defend.—After much debating within himself, an expedient came into his mind, which he immediately put in execution.

He found, by what he had heard Jenny say to mrs. M——, that Celandine had taken the liberty to treat that young lady in a manner very unworthy of her character ;—this seem'd to him a good pretence for covering the face of his design ; and therefore resolv'd to make her quarrel appear as the chief motive of his resentment, touching only obliquely on that he had conceiv'd against him in regard of lady Speck.

Having well consider'd on all the consequences that might probably attend the step he was about to take, and fully determin'd with himself to pursue it, he wrote to Celandine that same evening in the following terms :

TO R. CELANDINE, Esq;

“ SIR,

“ **Y**OU have affronted a young lady
“ of distinguish'd merit, at present
“ under the protection of the woman I
“ adore ; and, it is said, have given room
“ for suspicion of your having also en-

“ certain’d thoughts of herself altogether
 “ unbecoming of you ;—I think it there-
 “ fore a duty incumbent on me to de-
 “ mand that satisfaction which every
 “ gentleman has a right to expect, when
 “ injured in the persons of those he pro-
 “ fesses to esteem.—I shall be glad to see
 “ you to-morrow morning about six, in
 “ the first field at the end of the walks,
 “ where I flatter myself you will not
 “ long suffer yourself to be waited for,
 “ by

“ Yours,

“ E. LOVEGROVE.”

“ P. S. I shall come alone, for I see
 “ no need that any friends, either
 “ of yours or mine, should be in-
 “ volv’d in this dispute.”

This billet he sent by one of his ser-
 vants ; who, after staying a considerable
 time, return’d with an answer containing
 these lines :

To E. LOVEGROVE, Esq;

“ SIR,

“ I AM sorry you should desire any
 “ thing of me which suits not my
 “ humour to comply with ; — lady
 “ Speck

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“ Speck and miss Jeffamy are both of
“ them very fine women ; but upon my
“ soul I think neither of them, or any
“ other woman, worth drawing my
“ sword for ; — so must desire you will
“ excuse my refusing to meet you on
“ this score ; on any other you may
“ command

“ Yours,

“ R. CELANDINE ”

It would be difficult to decide, whether anger or contempt was the most predominant passion in the mind of Mr. Lovegrove on reading the above : — he resolved, however, not to suffer the insolence of that bad man to go unpunish'd, but went very early the next morning to his lodgings, in order either to force from him the satisfaction he required : or still persisting to refuse it, to give him such treatment as men are ordinarily accusom'd to receive after behaving in the manner he had done.

As he was going towards the house he perceived, while at some distance, a post-chaise waiting at the door ; and before he could well reach it, saw Celandine just ready to step in ; — on this he sprung forward with all the speed he could, and catching

catching Celandine by the arm,—‘ Stay,
 ‘ sir, cried he, you must not think to
 ‘ leave this town without making some
 ‘ atonement for your behaviour in it.’

‘ Sir, replied the other, with some hesi-
 ‘ tation in his voice, — I give an account
 ‘ of my actions to no man,—nor has any
 ‘ man a right to inspect into them.’—
 ‘ Every man of honour has a right to in-
 ‘ spect into the actions of a villain,
 ‘ rejoin’d mr. Lovegrove fiercely, and
 ‘ if you are guilty of such as you have
 ‘ neither the justice to acknowledge, nor
 ‘ the courage to defend, you know the
 ‘ recompence—you are to expect.’

‘ I dare fight,’ said Celandine, and im-
 mediately drew his sword, as did mr.
 Lovegrove his at the same time ; but
 both were prevented by a great posse of
 people, who in an instant were gather’d
 about them, drawn thither by the out-
 cries of Celandine’s servants, the posti-
 lion, and the people of the house who
 were come to the door to take leave of
 their lodger ; and it was the expectation
 of this seasonable interruption, which
 doubtless inspired the antagonist of mr.
 Lovegrove with so much boldness on a
 sudden.

They

They had scarce time to make one push before they were disarm'd by the populace ; and a constable, who lived hard by, coming to interpose his authority to put an end to the fray, took possession of both their swords, and told them they must give him leave to conduct them to a magistrate ;—they readily submitted, and were follow'd by a continually increasing crowd, as lady Speck's woman had described.

They soon arrived at the house of a gentleman in commission of the peace, who happen'd to be a person of great worth and honour.—Celandine exhibited a most pitious complaint against his adversary ;—first, for sending him a challenge to fight on account of things which he said he knew nothing of ; and afterwards for assaulting him in the streets, putting a stop to his journey, and occasioning a riot and disturbance in the town. — Mr. Lovegrove was entirely silent till the other had left off speaking, and then related the whole which had pass'd between them naturally as it was. —The magistrate could scarce forbear smiling, but desired to see both the letters ; on which Celandine produced the challenge ; but mr. Lovegrove, being

unwilling to expose the names of the ladies, which the other had indiscreetly mention'd in his answer, said he had it not about him, and believ'd he had lost it.

After having heard both parties, the worshipful gentleman began to expatiate, in terms besitting his character, on the bad custom of duelling ;—he said, that though the too frequent practice of it had render'd it not dishonourable, yet it was directly contrary to the rules both of religion and morality, and to the laws of society as well as those of the land ;—after which he recommended to them, and even exacted their mutual promise, to regard each other from that time forward, not as enemies, if they could not do so as friends.

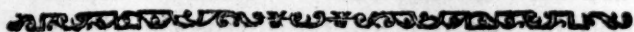
‘ I will not take his word, sir, cried
 ‘ Celandine hastily,—I am convinced he
 ‘ has malice against me in his heart ; I
 ‘ go in danger of my life by him, and
 ‘ desire I may be admitted to make oath
 ‘ of it, and that he may be bound over.’
 — This could not be refused, and the
 book was immediately presented to
 him.’

‘Are you, fir, of the same way of thinking too, said the justice to mr. Lovegrove,’—‘No, up n my honour, fir,’ reply’d he; I am not under the least apprehensions on the score of this gentleman; and dare answer for him, that if there were as little danger in his tongue as there is to be fear’d from his sword, he would be the most unhurtful creature breathing.’

It was with difficulty the justice restrain’d himself from laughing; but preserving as much an air of gravity as he could on the occasion—‘Well then, fir,’ said he, I am compell’d, by the duties of my office, to discharge your adversity, and oblige you to give security for your future behaviour towards him.’

On this Celandine thank’d him, and took his leave;—several of the croud, who had burst into the hall, follow’d him with a thousand scurril jests and fleers at his cowardice; but he was too much a man of peace to take any notice of what they said; and making what haste he could to the chaise, which still waited for him, set out for London, probably wishing he had not left it to come down to Bath.

Mr. Lovegrove sent for lord Huntley and sir Robert Manley, who immediately came, and all the little formalities of this affair being over, and settled to the satisfaction of the gentleman before whom they were, he threw off the magistrate and assum'd a character more natural to him,—that of a man perfectly well bred and complaisant,—was very pleasant with them on the conduct of Celandine,—compell'd them to stay breakfast with him, and entertain'd them as elegantly as such a repast would admit.



C H A P. IV.

Relates some passages subsequent to the preceding adventure.

AFTER the gentlemen had quitted the justice's house, each repair'd to his respective lodging, in order to dress for the remainder of the day ; but meeting again at the coffee-house, it was agreed to adjourn from thence to make a morning visit to lady Speck and her fair companions, without mentioning a word of what had happen'd ; mr. Lovegrove being desirous that the whole affair should
be

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be kept a secret from them, unless chance should by any way make a discovery of it to them.

Those ladies were all this while in a good deal of uneasiness; — the servants who had been sent out for intelligence were all return'd without being able to bring any thing material for the satisfaction of their curiosity; — miss Wingman and Jenny had both of them a very great regard for mr. Lovegrove, the one as having known him a considerable time, and the other as having perceived in him many indications of his being a man truly worthy of esteem.

But lady Speck had her own reasons for being much more perplex'd than either of them could be; — she had an high esteem for mr. Lovegrove on account of the amiable qualifications he was possess'd of, and the long and respectful court he had made to her; — the caprice of her destiny had made her find something in the person of Celandine which had attracted but too much of the more tender inclinations of her heart; and to think that any danger threatened either of those gentlemen was an extreme trouble to her.

But what touch'd her yet the more deeply, was the concern she had for her own reputation ;—she doubted not but that the quarrel between them was on her score ; nor indeed could she well assign any other probable motive for it ; especially when she reflected that mr. Lovegrove, on hearing mrs. M—— say that Celandine had come to Bath on the invitation of a woman of quality, had given her not only some looks but also several hints, that he entertain'd the most jealous apprehensions that herself was the woman of quality whose favours that fop had so impudently boasted of ; —she had good reason therefore to be fearful, that an affair of this nature might occasion her name to be brought in question, and perhaps too, not in the most honourable fashion.

Suspence is a kind of magnifying glass, which represents whatever ill we dread in its most formidable shape ;—this poor lady figur'd to herself a thousand distracting images ; and though she spoke but little, gave such visible demonstrations of her inward disorders, as could not but be taken notice of, both by Jenny and miss Wingman.

As neither of these young ladies as yet had ever harbour'd the least suspicion of her having a particular regard for any man, much less of the sentiments that Celandine had inspired her with, they imagined they had now made a discovery ; but it was in favour of mr. Lovegrove, and both of them cried out almost at the same time.—‘ How happy
 ‘ would mr. Lovegrove think himself, if
 ‘ he saw how your ladyship is disquieted
 ‘ on his account.’

Though lady Speck affected to be a little peevish at their seeming to suppose her capable of having a tenderness for any man ; yet she felt as much satisfaction as the present situation of her mind would admit her to enjoy, in finding they mark'd out mr. Lovegrove as the object, and that Celandine was quite out of the question with them on that account.

‘ Indeed, sister, said miss Wingman,
 ‘ it has been always my opinion, and I
 ‘ believe all your friends are of the
 ‘ same, that the person of mr. Love-
 ‘ grove, his accomplishments, his for-
 ‘ tune, and long services, render him
 ‘ not unworthy of your acceptance ; and
 ‘ I

‘ I think you need neither be angry nor
 ‘ ashamed that this accident has discover’d
 ‘ your sensibility of his passion.’

‘ Lord, my dear, how very silly you
 ‘ are, said lady Speck ;—no one man
 ‘ has any charms for me above another ;
 ‘ —I am only vex’d that men should
 ‘ fall out, — fight, — and kill one ano-
 ‘ ther ; — and all this too for nothing
 ‘ perhaps, or what is next to nothing,
 ‘ —some idle punctilio of imaginary ho-
 ‘ nour.’

Just as she had ended these words the door was suddenly thrown open by a footman, and lord Huntley, sir Robert Manley, and mr. Lovegrove, came altogether into the room. — ‘ What, ladies,’ cried the latter of these gentlemen, with an air more than ordinarily gay,—‘ not yet dress’d ?—we came to attend you to the walks, and you are still in your deshabillee.’

‘ We must have been strangely insen-
 ‘ sible, replied lady Speck, to have
 ‘ thought of dress when we were told
 ‘ that two of our acquaintance were going
 ‘ to imbrue their hands in each other’s
 ‘ blood.’

‘ Our

‘ Our hands are all clean, I think, madam, said mr. Lovegrove ;— ‘ But can you add, rejoin’d she hastily, that your heart is also so ? —Can you say you did not rise this morning with an intention to destroy, or be destroyed yourself ?’

Here mr. Lovegrove appearing a little confused, as debating within himself whether it was most proper for him to confess or to deny the fact, lord Huntley immediately took up the word ;— ‘ No, faith, madam, said his lordship with a smile, I dare answer so far for my friend, that he arose not this morning with the least animosity to any thing worthy of his sword.’

‘ No ambiguities, good my lord, resumed she ;— I expect a plain answer to my question ;—therefore tell me at once, mr. Lovegrove, how happened your quarrel with Celandine, and which of you was the aggressor ? —You find, continued she, perceiving he was still silent, that we are no strangers to the main point ; and consequently have a right to expect you should gratify our curiosity with the particulars.’

• It

‘ It never has been my practice yet,
‘ madam, reply’d mr. Lovegrove, after
‘ a little pause, to disobey your ladyship
‘ in any thing, nor must I now do it in
‘ this ;—you command me to tell you
‘ the motive of my quarrel with Celandine,
‘ and I must answer it was on the
‘ score of justice and of virtue. — You
‘ also ask who was the aggressor ; to
‘ which I must also answer, that it was
‘ Celandine ; who by affronting a person
‘ lov’d and esteem’d by you, justly merited
‘ chastisement, not only from me
‘ but from all who have the honour of
‘ being acquainted with your ladyship.’

‘ So then, said Jenny, I find that all
‘ this bustle is to be placed on my account ;
‘ — but I would not have you
‘ imagine, mr. Lovegrove, continued
‘ she laughing, that you are entitled to
‘ any acknowledgments from me, since
‘ I am indebted for what you have done
‘ entirely to the friendship I am honoured
‘ with by lady Speck.’

Mr. Lovegrove was about to make
some reply, but was prevented by sir
Robert Manley, who, approaching her
with the most respectful air,—‘ Madam,
‘ said he, if others had been as early
‘ acquainted;

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‘acquainted with the presumption of
‘Celandine, the glory of being your
‘champion would certainly not have
‘fallen to the lot of mr. Lovegrove.’

‘I am glad then, return’d Jenny, that
‘it happen’d as it did ; because other-
‘wise I should have been laid under an
‘obligation which it was not in my
‘power to requite.’—‘It is of no im-
‘portance, my dear, interrupted lady
‘Speck, either who is the obliger or
‘the obliged ;—I only want to be fully
‘informed in the particulars of this
‘foolish transaction.’

On this mr. Lovegrove repeated all
that pass’d between himself and Celan-
dine, till their being carried before a ma-
gistrate ; and would have gone through
the whole, but lord Huntley and sir Ro-
bert Manley assisted him in the rest, and
gave so pleasant a detail of Celandine’s
behaviour on that occasion as was highly
diverting to the ladies.

But though lady Speck laugh’d as
well as her sister and Jenny, and affected
to appear equally unconcern’d at what
she heard ; yet there still remain’d some-
thing on her spirits which she could not
forbear

forbear testifying in these or the like terms :

The little narrative being concluded,
' —I am very glad, said she, that no
' worse consequences attended this adventure ;—yet I cannot help being a little
' concern'd, that any thing shou'd happen to occasion my name, or that of
' miss Jessamy, to be mentioned before
' a magistrate, and such a mob of people
' as generally croud in to be witnesses
' of the decision he gives in cases of this
' nature.'

' No, madam, reply'd mr. Lovegrove
' hastily,—I do assure your ladyship that
' neither of you have any cause to be in
' pain on that score ;—your names were
' held too sacred to be quoted as the
' subjects of a quarrel ; and it was for
' this reason I refused to produce Celandine's answer to the billet I sent him,
' —he having imprudently, I might say
' impudently too, inserted them in that
' scrawl.'

' How, cried lady Speck with the
' utmost impatience in her voice and
' eyes,—let us see on what pretence the
' creature presumed to take that liberty ?'

Though

Though it is more than probable that mr. Lovegrove was far from being displeased at having this opportunity of convincing lady Speck in what manner she had been spoken of by Celandine, yet he suffer'd her to repeat her demand several times over before he comply'd with it; and at last seem'd to do so with an extreme reluctance.'

' I intended, madam, said he, that no eyes but my own should have been witnesses of the unparallel'd audacity it contains; — but as your ladyship commands I should deliver it to you, I neither can nor dare be disobedient.'

With these words he took the letter he had received from Celandine out of his pocket and presented it to her, — adding, at the same time, — ' This, madam, however will serve to prove, that besides the first motive of my resentment to him he subjoin'd another, not less deserving the punishment I design'd.'

Her ladyship snatch'd it out of his hand with emotions which it was not in her power to conceal; but having slightly look'd it over to herself grew a good deal more compos'd; and forcing her countenance

countenance into a half smile,—‘ I doubt
‘ not, said she, — but what mr. Love-
‘ grove has said of this billet has raised
‘ a curiosity in you all for the contents ;
‘ —I will therefore read it aloud for the
‘ advantage of the company.’

‘ Well, ladies,—cried lord Huntley as
‘ soon as she had done, — though you
‘ have not the good fortune to have your
‘ merits peculiarly distinguish’d by this
‘ fine gentleman, you ought not to fall
‘ under too great humiliation, for you
‘ find he includes your whole sex ; and
‘ plainly avows he looks upon no wo-
‘ man worthy venturing the tremendous
‘ discomposure of his well-tied sword
‘ knot.’

Here follow’d much merriment among
them, which had perhaps continued lon-
ger, as they were all persons of wit, and
had so ample a field for ridicule ; but
it was now almost noon, and the ladies
were not yet dress’d, for which reason
the gentlemen thought proper to with-
draw, and leave them to consult their
glasses on those charms that Celandine
had affected to despise.

Jenny and miss Wingman thought
little of this adventure afterwards ; but
it

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it made a very deep impressi^on on the mind of lady Speck;—the delicacy mr. Lovegrove had shewn in laying the stress of his resentment on the affront Celandine had offer'd to her friend, and not on the jealousy which she plainly saw he had conceived of herself, open'd her eyes to those merits in him to which her partial inclination for the other had made her so long blind; and she now beheld both the men such as they truly were, and not such as her unjudging fancy had lately painted them.

Ashamed of her past folly she had no consolation but in the care she had always taken to conceal it from the world:—as for mr. Lovegrove, whose good opinion she was now most concern'd to preserve, she resolved to behave towards him for the future in such a manner as should intirely dissipate whatever suspicions he might have entertain'd to her prejudice.

It was undoubtedly the good genius, or better angel of this lady, which had brought about, however fortuitious they might seem, such a happy concurrence of events as could not fail of awakening in her a just sense of what she owed to her

her character, and that esteem she was naturally so ambitious of maintaining.

What advantages she received from this change of humour, and the emanations she was at present enlightened with, will hereafter be demonstrated ;—in the mean time there are things of a yet more interesting nature which demand the attention of the reader.

CHAP. V.

Contains, among other things, an account of a very extraordinary, and no less severe trial of female fortitude and moderation.

ACCORDING to all the observations which reason and a long experience has enabled me to make, happiness is a thing which ought to be totally erased out of the vocabulary of sublunary enjoyments ;—the human heart is liable to so many passions, and the events of fortune so uncertain and precarious, that life is little more than a continued series of anxieties and suspense :—what we pursue as the ultimate of our desires, the summum bonum of all our wishes,

fleets

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fleets before us, dances in the wind, seems at sometimes ready to meet our grasp, at others soaring quite out of reach; or, when attain'd, deceives our expectations, baffles our high-raised hopes, and shews the fancy'd heaven a mere vapour.

Nor is this to be wondered at, or indeed much to be pitied in those who place their happiness in the gratification of their passions, which all of them in general tend to the acquisition of what is far from being a real good; — but there are some, though I fear an inconsiderable number, who, compos'd of more equal elements, wisely avoid the restless aims, the giddy vain pursuits with which they see so many of their fellow creatures so intoxicated and perplex'd; — would fain sit down contented with their lot, whatever it happens to be, and observing this maxim of the poet,

Not toss and turn about their feverish will,
But know their ease must come by lying still.

Yet not even these can find an asylum from cares; — though the soul, like a hermit in his cell, sits quiet in the bosom,

18 *The HISTORY of*

form, unruffled by any tempest of its own, it suffers from the rude blasts of others faults ;—envy and detraction are sure to taint it with their envenom'd breath ;—treachery, deceit and all kinds of injustice alarm it with the most dreadful apprehensions of impending danger, and shew the necessity of keeping a continual guard against their pernicious enterprises ; — but above all, the ingratitude of friends is the most terrible to sustain ;—that anguish which proceeds from the detected falshood of a person on whom we depend is almost insupportable ; nor can reason or philosophy be always sufficient to defend us from it, — as I remember to have somewhere read,

Fate ne'er strikes deep but when un-
kindness joins.

This is certainly a very melancholy circumstance ; and the situation of the injured person's mind cannot but be very uneasy ;—after having placed an entire confidence in any one whom we believe to be our friend,—after having intrusted him with the dearest secrets of our lives, and rely'd upon him for all the services and good offices in his power, —then, I say, to find him base, ungenerous and deceitful, is as poignant an affliction

affliction as any to which language can give a name.

I know not whether to be eternally deprived of a real and experienced friend by the stroke of death, be not a less shock than it is to lose one, whom we have always believed as such, by his own infidelity. — Under the former of these misfortunes we have the liberty to indulge many consolatory reflections ;—first, that the great law of nature must be obey'd, and that there was an indispensable necessity for us to be one day separated ;—secondly, in the hope that the person we lament is a gainer by this change, and much more happy than mortal life could make him ;—and thirdly, though it may seem perhaps a wild idea, in supposing a possibility that he may be still a witness of our actions, be pleased at our remembrance of him ; and, at the hour of our dissolution, even be appointed our conductor to the celestial mansions : — but under the latter, that of being betrayed by a false friend, we can have no such agreeable images before our eyes ; — on the contrary,—grief and despair for ill-requited tenderness and sincerity, accompanied with remorse and shame for having made so unworthy a choice, must

be the only subjects of our distracted meditations.

Thus impossible is it, for minds the most serene by nature, to remain always wholly free from inquietudes of one shape or other ; — Jenny, the heroine of this history, had a temper not easily discomposed, and well deserved that character which our English Sappho gave of a lady for whom she had a particular veneration.

Chearful as birds that welcome in the
spring,
No ill suspecting, nor no danger dreading ;
In conscious innocence secure and
blest'd,
She liv'd lov'd of all, and loving
all.

And yet she met with something, which, if it had not all the effect it would have produced in most others of her sex, was at least sufficient to turn that so lately harmonious frame of mind into a kind of chaos and inextricable confusion.

Those arrows of vexation which the
base contrivances of Bellpine had levell'd
against

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against her peace, had hitherto proved unsuccessful ; — they had either miss'd their aim, or slightly glanc'd upon her without doing any real mischief ; but she now received a random shot, and from a hand which least design'd to hurt her, that pierced her tender bosom to the quick, and left a wound behind which requir'd a long length of time to heal.

Since the adventure of Celandine the ladies had lived for some days in an uninterrupted scene of gaiety ; — every day, — almost every hour, brought with it some new pleasure or amusement ; — to heighten Jenny's satisfaction she had receiv'd a letter from Jemmy, acquainting her that his business was now near being concluded, and that he should very shortly be with her at Bath ; — he wrote to her on this account in terms so positive, that she doubted not but his next would inform her of the day in which he was to set out from London.

In that expectation she sent him an answer full of tenderness, expressing the sincere pleasure she took in the hopes he gave her of seeing him so soon, and desiring he would not let slip the first opportunity that presented itself of fulfilling his promise ; though, in effect,

she thought this injunction very needless; for she had that perfect confidence in him as to assure herself he would not lose a single moment that might bring him nearer to her.

But behold the swift vicissitude of human affairs; how in one instant are the face of things changed to the reverse of what they were? The ladies had been at a Ball, which detain'd them till very late;—on their coming home, Jenny remembering it was the day that the post came in, she ask'd if no letter had been brought for her; and being told there was, and that it lay upon her toylet, she wish'd the ladies a good night and ran hastily to her chamber in order to peruse the letter, which she doubted not but came from her dear *Jemmy*, with the certainty of his immediate approach.

She was not, indeed, deceived in the former part of her conjecture;—she saw it was *Jemmy's* hand, and directed as usual

To miss *JESSAMY* at Bath.

But what was her amazement,—her consternation,—when breaking the seal and unfolding the paper with all the impatience

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patience of the most warm affection, she found the contents as follows :

“ Dear Angel,

“ **W**HEN I acquainted you with
“ that curst engagement which an
“ unavoidable necessity has laid me un-
“ der, I little thought you would have
“ resented it in the manner you now
“ seem to do ; especially when I assured
“ you, with the utmost sincerity, that
“ I would break from it as soon as I
“ could find a pretence to do it with
“ decency ;—you might, methinks, have
“ known me better than to suspect I
“ would omit any thing in my power to
“ hasten the happy minute of flying to
“ your arms with a heart unencumber’d
“ with any cares but those of pleasing
“ you.

“ If you return the passion I have for
“ you with half that gratitude you have
“ so inchantly avow’d, you will
“ repent,—you must by this time repent
“ the pains you cannot but be sensible
“ your cruel billet has inflicted on me.

“ I flatter myself with being able to
“ see you in a few days at our usual place
“ of meeting ; when, if you are as just

“ as you are fair, you will be more kind
“ to him who is,

“ With an unextinguishable flame,

“ My dear charmer,

“ Your most devoted,

“ And faithful servant,

“ J. JESSAMY.”

“ P. S. If I have any friends among
“ the intellectual world, I shall petition
“ them to haunt your nightly dreams
“ with the shadow of me, till propi-
“ tious fortune throws the substance at
“ your feet.”

What now was the condition of Jenny?
—she re-examined the seal and the hand-
writing; — she knew both too well to
flatter herself with a possibility of their
being counterfeited; nor was it in her
power to conceive that the engagement
mention'd in the letter could be any
other than that between herself and
Jeminy.—Where are the words can fur-
nish a description? where is the heart,
not under the same circumstances, that
can be truly sensible of what she felt?
—Grief and indignation in these first mo-
ments

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ments were absorbed in wild astonishment, convulsions seiz'd her breast, — her brain grew giddy, — her eyes dazzled, while attempting to look over again some passages in this fatal letter, and her whole frame being agitated with emotions too violent for nature to sustain, she fell back in the chair where she was sitting, and every function ceas'd its operation.

Her maid, who was waiting in her chamber, perceiving this, flew to her assistance, threw some lavender-water on her face, and at the same time scream'd out for help ; — Lady Speck and Miss Wingman, being that instant coming up stairs to their apartment, heard the cries, and ran into the room ; — they found their fair friend without any signs of breath and motionless ; — they took hold of her hands and felt them bedew'd all over, as was her lovely face, with a cold dead damp, like that of the last agonies of departing life.

Surprised and frightened beyond measure, they cut the laceings of her stays, — raised her head, — bent her gently forwards, — apply'd hartshorn to her nostrils and temples, and every other remedy they could think of, till at length, either through their endeavours or the force

of nature labouring for itself, she recover'd by degrees, open'd her eyes, and uttered some words, which though inarticulate rejoiced their hearts.

Reason and recollection, however, were not as yet return'd, and lady Speck finding her disorder still continued very violent, thought proper, late as it then was, to send for a physician, and in the mean time both she and her sister, as well as their women servants, who were call'd in, assisted in putting her into bed, where she was no sooner laid than she grew better; not only her voice but her senses also were enough restor'd to thank the ladies for the trouble they had taken; and to tell them, in order to conceal the real cause, that she believed her disorder was occasion'd by her having danced too much that night.

The physician being come, she notwithstanding suffer'd him to feel her pulse, and promised to follow his prescription, which was only a composing draught for that night; though he departed not without giving some items that his advice would be necessary next day.

The ladies, after having seen her take the dose prepared for her, retir'd and left

left her to the care of her own maid and lady Speck's woman, who both sat by her bed-side the whole remainder of the night.



C H A P. VI.

Treats of many things as unexpected by the persons concern'd in them, as they can be by the reader himself.

LADY Speck and her sister had no sooner quitted Jenny's chamber than she fell into a profound sleep; whether owing to the goodness of her constitution, the doctor's prescription, or the fatigue she had undergone, is uncertain, but she awoke next morning greatly refresh'd, and much more so in spirits than could have been expected.

She now call'd to mind all the particulars that had occasion'd her late disorder; and remembering she had not put up the letter, order'd it should be look'd for and brought to her; — the maid search'd carefully about the room, but it being no where to be found, she concluded that some body must have taken it away, and by that means a secret

would be divulg'd which she had much rather should have been eternally conceal'd.

But as this suggestion was only a sudden start of female pride, of which she had as small a share as any of her sex, her good understanding easily got the better of it ;—‘ I think, said she to herself, the unfaithful man call'd his engagement with me a curst engagement, and promised to break off ;—if so, the discovery must be made some time or other ;—it is therefore of little importance when, or by what means his perfidiousness is reveal'd.’

She was not mistaken indeed, — the letter had dropt from her hand as she fainted, — miss Wingman, during the confusion, seeing a paper lie on the floor, took it up, and finding Jemmy's name subscrib'd was curious to know the contents, and for that purpose put it into her pocket without any one observing what she did.

She kept not from her sister the knowledge of the petty larceny she had committed, and as soon as they were alone together read it carefully over, examin'd every sentence, and made their own reflections.

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fections upon the whole, which, prejudiced as they were with a belief of Jemmy's inconstancy, were yet less unfavourable to him in this point than those of his offended mistress.

They were, however, extremely incens'd against Jemmy; and, sincerely pitying the case of their friend, resolved to say and do every thing they could to soften her affliction:—it being near morning when they went to rest, the day was very far advanced before they arose; but they no sooner had quitted their beds than they repair'd directly to Jenny's chamber, and found her much less disconsolate than they had imagined.

As that young lady doubted not but it was either lady Speck or her sister who had taken away her letter, or at least some person who would not fail of communicating it to them, she had determined, before they came, in what manner she would behave on the occasion.

The sisters, on their part, were not altogether so well prepar'd;—they expected not that she was as yet in a condition to endure much discourse, especially on so tender and critical a point;—they thought it would be time enough

to entertain her on that head when the first shock of her misfortune should be over ; and had not therefore well consider'd how to break their knowledge of it to her.

This caution in them was certainly very prudent, as well as very kind ; but Jenny had too much spirit and resolution not to render it unnecessary :—on their enterance she started up in her bed, and said to them with a smile,—‘ I guess’d, ladies, that your good nature would bring you hither, so was just going to rise that you might be spared the trouble.’

‘ I am very glad, reply’d lady Speck, to find that a disorder which seem’d to threaten the worst consequences is likely to go off so well ; — but, my dear miss Jessamy, I would not have you think of leaving your bed till your health is a little farther re-establish’d ; — I will order, added she, breakfast to be brought in here,— and after that, would fain persuade you to take some repose.’

The maid then going out of the room to fetch the utensils for breakfast,—‘ Instead of this goodness, madam, said Jenny,

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‘ Jenny, your ladyship ought rather to
‘ chide me for my folly ; — the incon-
‘ stancy and ingratitude of mankind are
‘ not things so new and strange as to
‘ justify that surprise and confusion I was
‘ last night involv’d in.

They look’d on each other at these words, but made no answer, — on which Jenny went on, — ‘ I am very sensible,
‘ ladies, pursued she, that neither of you
‘ are unacquainted with the cause of my
‘ disorder ; — the letter I received last
‘ night has inform’d you of all, — nor
‘ am I sorry it has done what my tongue,
‘ perhaps, might have falter’d in per-
‘ forming.’

‘ Since I have your pardon, my dear,
‘ reply’d miss Wingman, I shall make
‘ no scruple to confess the theft which
‘ my curiosity made me guilty of ; and
‘ I am the more ready to excuse myself
‘ for what I have done, as I am apt to
‘ think that the knowledge my sister
‘ and I have of this affair may enable
‘ us to give you some little consolation
‘ under it.’

‘ Yes, my dear miss Jessamy, rejoin’d
‘ lady Speck, you must believe that,
‘ though greatly interested in all that
‘ concerns

‘ concerns you, our minds were less dis-
 ‘ concerted than yours must naturally
 ‘ be on reading that epistle ; and con-
 ‘ frequently were in a better capacity of
 ‘ judging, and seeing into the heart of
 ‘ him who wrote it.’

‘ And what can you see there, madam,
 ‘ cried Jenny hastily, but the most vile
 ‘ ingratitude and perfidiousness ?’ — ‘ I
 ‘ am going about, said that lady, not to
 ‘ palliate his crime ; but I think it is your
 ‘ duty to thank Heaven, that by this
 ‘ incident of his directing to you what
 ‘ was doubtless intended for another, you
 ‘ are convinced how unworthy he is of
 ‘ your affection.’

‘ Besides,’ cried miss Wingman, per-
 ceiving Jenny sigh’d and made no answer
 to what lady Speck had said, — ‘ methinks
 ‘ it should please you to find, that if mr.
 ‘ Jeffamy has slighted you for the sake
 ‘ of miss Chit, he slights her also for
 ‘ some other ; and she has no less reason
 ‘ to condemn him than yourself.’

‘ Do you not think then that the letter
 ‘ was meant for her ?’ demanded Jenny
 ‘ hastily.’ — ‘ No indeed, resumed lady
 ‘ Speck, nor will you, when you con-
 ‘ sider more coolly on the matter, be-
 ‘ lieve

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‘ lieve that any man, much less one so
‘ polite as mr. Jessamy, would write in
‘ such a stile and manner to a woman
‘ he intended for a wife.— This woman,
‘ pursued she, is rather some petty
‘ mistress whom chance may have thrown
‘ in his way.’

On this miss Wingman, after having urged something in defence of what her sister had said, return’d the letter to Jenny, desiring she would examine it again, and then tell them how far she thought their opinion of it was unreasonable or improbable.

Jenny obeyed this injunction with a great deal of readiness ; and after having paus’d for some moments on what she had read,— ‘ I confess, ladies, said she, ‘ that the freedom mr. Jessamy takes ‘ with this woman is little becoming of ‘ an honourable passion ;— but the more ‘ base his inclinations are, the more ‘ reason have I to resent he should attempt a gratification of them at the ‘ expence of that respect due from him ‘ to the engagement he has with me.’

‘ Men will say any thing to gain their
‘ point this way, said lady Speck laughing ; and if hereafter you shall find no
‘ greater

‘ greater cause of complaint against him
‘ than what this letter gives you, I should
‘ almost pity his inadvertency in expo-
‘ sing his folly to the only woman from
‘ whom it most behoved him to have
‘ conceal’d it.’

Just as she had ended these words tea and chocolate were brought in, — after which, as the maids were present, no farther discourse pass’d upon this subject; — when breakfast was over, the ladies retired in order to dress; but not without conjuring Jenny to lie still and endeavour to take a little more repose; — she promised to comply, but had nothing less in her head, being glad to be alone, and at liberty to make her own reflections on an event which had occasion’d so great a change both in her sentiments and humour.

As she had imagined, in the first hurry of her spirits on the receipt of this letter, that it was in reality wrote to miss Chit, and a demonstrative proof of the truth of all that had been told her on that account by lady Speck and miss Wingman, it was no inconsiderable alleviation of her trouble, to be now pretty well convinced, that instead of making his honourable addresses to a woman of condition,
he

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he was only amusing himself with an affair of gallantry,—a thing not much to be wonder'd at in a gentleman of his years and gay disposition; and her good sense would doubtless have enabled her to forgive it, but for the promise he seem'd to have made to this new object of his flame of breaking through all engagements, that he might devote himself entirely to her.

This, in a man whom she had always look'd upon and regarded as her second self, appeared so treacherous and ungrateful, that resentment got the better of all the tenderness she once had for him, and made her resolve to take him at his word, and be the first to release him from those engagements he had treated in so unworthy a manner.

Thus did the greatness of her spirit refuse to yield to the impulse of grief;—she got out of bed, in spite of all the intreaties of her maid to the contrary,—put on her cloaths, —lock'd safely up the proof of her lover's infidelity in a little casket where she kept her jewels, and would even have gone down into the dining room as usual, but found her limbs too weak to obey the dictates of her will;—she threw herself into an easy chair,

chair, and remain'd there for some time, in a situation of mind which only those of my fair readers, who have experienc'd somewhat like the same, can be capable of conceiving.

She was in a deep resvery when the ladies return'd to her chamber; — she spoke chearfully to them, yet they plainly saw through all the vivacity she assumed, that a heavy melancholy had seated itself upon her heart; — they would not therefore leave her; — they order'd dinner to be served up in that room; and when it was over, call'd for a pack of cards and obliged her to make one at ombre.

They had play'd but a very short time before a servant acquainted the two ladies, that a man was below who said his name was Landy; — that he was just come from London, and had brought letters of the utmost importance, which he was charg'd to deliver the moment of his arrival.

‘ Bless me, — my mother’s steward, cried lady Speck.’ — ‘ Grant Heaven,’ rejoin’d miss Wingman, that no hurt ‘ has happen’d to her ladyship;’ — with these words they threw the cards out of their hands and ran immediately down stairs.

Jenny,

Jenny, who at another time would have been anxious for any thing that concern'd her friends, was now too much ingross'd with her own affairs to give much regard to the exclamations these ladies had made, and return'd to those reflections they had endeavour'd to divert her from.

It was not long, however, before they both came back, and with countenances which denoted the most extreme surprise.

'—Well, miss Jessamy, said the younger, I have done my best to console you, now you may do the same kind office to me:—all men are alike perfidious; —there is no faith,—no honour in the whole sex.'

'Aye my dear, cried lady Speck, such a monstrous piece of villany is come to light as when you hear will make you forget every thing besides.'
 '—All that you can guess is nothing to it, resumed miss Wingman;—but I will keep you no longer in suspense; —you must know I have just received two letters, the one from my guardian, sir Thomas Welby, and the other from my Mamma; —she would not trust the intelligence they contain'd by the
 ' post

‘ post for fear of a miscarriage, but sent
 ‘ her own steward on purpose to me ;—
 ‘ you shall hear them both ;—I will be-
 ‘ gin with that from sir Thomas.’

She then took the letters she mention-
 ed out of her pocket, and read as follows :

To miss WINGMAN at Bath.

“ Dear miss,

“ **I** Thank Heaven for putting it in
 “ my power to discover to you, I hope
 “ time enough to prevent your ruin, as
 “ wicked a design as ever enter’d the
 “ heart of the most profligate of our sex
 “ to attempt against the innocence of
 “ yours.

“ I am ashamed to think that a noble-
 “ man of lord Huntley’s birth and per-
 “ sonal endowments can be capable of
 “ descending to such a low piece of vil-
 “ lany ;—yet so it is,—I can assure you,
 “ my dear miss, that nothing is more
 “ certain than that he is already mar-
 “ ried ;—his lady I believe is but lately
 “ come from Ireland, and is at present
 “ lodged at the house of a particular
 “ friend of mine ;—I both saw and spoke
 “ to her ladyship under the pretence of
 “ having

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“ having some business with my lord ;
“ she told me he was not in town, which
“ indeed I very well knew, having been
“ informed he had followed you down
“ to Bath.—There are, besides this, many
“ other circumstances to evince the
“ truth ; but as they are too numerous,
“ and too long to be inserted in the
“ compass of a letter, I shall defer giving
“ you the detail of them till I have
“ the pleasure of seeing you. — My advice
“ to you is, that you put it not in
“ the power of this unworthy lord to
“ deceive you any farther, but return
“ immediately to London ;—lady Wing-
“ man is of the same opinion ; but as
“ this letter will be accompanied with
“ one from herself, I doubt not but it
“ will have all the effect it ought to
“ have on your behaviour.—I am

“ With the best wishes,

“ My dear charge,

‘ Your very affectionate friend,

“ And most humble servant,

“ T. WELBY.”

Jenny had no time to express any
part of her sentiments on this occasion ;
—miss

— miss Wingman had no sooner ended her Guardian's epistle, than she proceeded to that from her Mother, — the contents whereof were these:

To miss WINGMAN at Bath.

“ My dear child,

“ I Cannot sufficiently express the trouble I am under on account of lord Huntley's baseness, — the intelligence of which I first received from our good friend sir Thomas Welby, and am since but too much confirm'd in the truth of it by some enquiries myself has been at the pains to make; — I must confess it was with difficulty I listened to any reports to his prejudice; — I could not tell how to believe such foul deceit could be couch'd under a form so seemingly adorn'd with every virtue, as well as every accomplishment besitting his birth; — but, my dear Kitty, we are never so easily beguiled as by the appearance of honour and sincerity; I tremble to think to what dangers you are expos'd, while suffering yourself to be entertain'd with the insinuating addresses of a man who can mean nothing but to involve you in eternal wretchedness; — I conjure

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“ jure you therefore, — I command you
“ by all the authority I have over you,
“ never to see him more ; — to fly his
“ presence as a serpent that watches to
“ blast your peace and reputation with
“ his envenom’d breath ; — I have sent
“ Landy on purpose to bring you this,
“ and to attend you to London ; and
“ hope you will not detain him any
“ longer than is necessary for your get-
“ ting ready to set out. — Farewell, — that
“ Heaven may have you always under
“ its protection, is the unceasing prayers
“ of,

“ My dear child,

“ Your most affectionate mother,

“ K. WINGMAN.”

“ P. S. I am not now in a condition
“ to write to your sister ; but desire you
“ will give my blessing to her ; and let
“ her know that if she stays behind you
“ at Bath, as I suppose she will, she
“ may expect to hear from me in a short
“ time. — In the present confusion of my
“ thoughts, I had almost forgot my com-
“ pliments to miss Jessamy, which pray
“ make acceptable to her.”

Jenny

Jenny could scarce find words to express her astonishment at what she heard ; —she could not tell how to think lord Huntley guilty in the manner he was represented ; and yet could less believe that sir Thomas Welby and lady Wingman, who she knew had always favour'd his pretensions, would write as they had done without having undeniable proofs of the justice of their accusation.

The three ladies had a long conversation together, the event of which will be seen in the succeeding chapter.



C H A P. VII.

Contains a brief recital of the resolutions taken on the foregoing advice.

AMONG the many who made their addreses to miss Wingman, their was none who had been so likely to succeed as lord Huntley ; —she respected him so well, that had the information against him come from any other hands than those it did, she would not have given the least credit to it, but she loved him

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him not enough to reject the admonitions of her friends, or to make her hesitate one moment if she should believe him guilty, or refuse to condemn a person whom they had found worthy of it.

Gay as she was by nature, she testify'd not the least reluctance to obey the commands of her mother in quitting Bath and all its pleasures, and resolved to do so without seeing lord Huntley before she went, or being at the pains of reproaching him with the crime he was accused of.

But as she seem'd a little desirous that he should some way or other be made acquainted with her knowledge of his perfidiousness, and thought it as great an infringement of her mother's orders to write as to speak to him any more, lady Speck was so obliging as to tell her she would take that task upon herself at his next visit.

Nor was it by this alone she proved the affection she had for her sister ;—‘ As
‘ you were intrusted to my care by my
‘ mother, said she, on our coming down
‘ to Bath, I am very loth to part with
‘ you till I have seen you safe again in
‘ her arms ; — therefore, continued she,

‘ if miss Jeffamy consents, I should be
 ‘ glad to return all together to London in
 ‘ the same manner as we left it.’

Nothing could have been more agreeable to Jenny than this proposal ; — she was not now in a condition to relish the pleasures of Bath, and longed very much to return to a place where persons are at liberty either to see all the world or to live perfectly retired, as suits best with their humour or circumstances.

‘ I am charm’d with your ladyship’s
 ‘ design, cried she, I could not have been
 ‘ easy to have seen miss Wingman torn
 ‘ from us in this manner ; especially on
 ‘ an occasion which could not afford her
 ‘ any pleasing ideas for the companions
 ‘ of her journey.’

Miss Wingman made many acknowledgments to them both for this kind offer, but at first refused to accept it ; —
 ‘ I think myself happy, added she, in the
 ‘ testimony you give me of your good
 ‘ nature and friendship towards me ; but
 ‘ I cannot suffer you to think of leaving
 ‘ this place just in the height of the
 ‘ season, and returning to London, which
 ‘ is now a perfect wilderness, merely be-
 ‘ cause

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‘ cause I am obliged to go thither, by a
‘ duty which I cannot dispense with.’

It is not to be supposed reasonable that this young lady was much in earnest in what she said on this score; — the others, however, were too sincere to take her at her word; — and it was at last agreed that they should all set out together, as soon as every thing could be got ready for their departure.

No company happening to come in, they pass’d the whole evening in Jenny’s chamber, where the conversation turning chiefly on the discovery of lord Huntley’s marriage, it suddenly came into lady Speck’s head, that it would be better for her to express her sentiments on that occasion by a letter, than by holding any discourse with a man whom she could scarce think upon with any tolerable degree of patience.

Miss Wingman approving of her intention, her ladyship took Jenny’s standish, and immediately wrote to him in the following terms :

To lord HUNTLEY.

My Lord,

“ I T is with an infinity of astonishment,
“ and little less concern, that I find
“ your lordship’s proposal of an alliance
“ with our family, instead of an honour,
“ is the greatest affront that could possibly
“ be offer’d to it ;— I thought my
“ sister’s birth, fortune, and character
“ had set her above being attempted to
“ be made the dupe either of a vicious
“ inclination or an unmeaning gallantry ;
“ for to what else than to gratify one
“ or the other of these propensities, can
“ tend the addresses of a person who has
“ already disposed of himself to another ?

“ This, my lord, is sufficient to convince
“ you that we are perfectly well
“ acquainted with your marriage ; —
“ after which I cannot suppose you will
“ even think of continuing your visits ;
“ the only reparation you can make for
“ a proceeding so unworthy of you, being
“ to shun henceforward the presence
“ of my much injured sister, and also
“ of all those who have any interest in
“ her happiness or reputation ; among
“ the number of whom you cannot doubt

“ is

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“ is her who is sorry to subscribe her-
“ self,

“ My lord,

“ Your lordship’s

“ Ill-treated servant,

“ M. SPECK.”

This, after having shewn it to miss Wingman and Jenny for their approbation, she sent by a servant to be left for lord Huntley ; but that nobleman coming not home till very late could do nothing in the affair that night ; early the next morning lady Speck received a billet from him containing these lines :

To lady SPECK.

“ MADAM,

“ I Received yours with more astonish-
“ ment than you could be capable of
“ feeling at the motive which induced
“ your ladyship to write to me in the
“ manner you did ;—so base, and withal
“ so ridiculous a calumny, would have
“ merited only my contempt, had it not
“ reach’d the ears of persons for whom
“ I have the greatest reverence : — No-
“ thing is more easy than for me to clear

“ my innocence in this matter ; but as
 “ I cannot bear to appear even for one
 “ moment guilty in the eyes of my dear
 “ adorable miss Wingman, I beg your
 “ ladyship will give me the opportunity
 “ of justifying myself by letting me
 “ know the name of my accuser ; —that
 “ villain, who while he stabs me in the
 “ back reaches my heart :—in confidence
 “ of your ladyship’s generosity in this
 “ point I will wait on you as soon as I
 “ am dress’d, promising at the same time
 “ to intrude no more till this cruel
 “ aspersions is removed, and I shall be
 “ found to be what I truly am,—a man
 “ of honour, and,

“ With the most profound respect,

“ Madam,

“ Your ladyship’s

“ Most humble

“ And most obedient servant,

“ HUNTLEY.”

The two sisters, who had imagined he
 would have been too much shock’d at
 the detection of his crime to have gone
 about to deny it, or to excuse it,—cried
 out, that he had an unparalell’d assurance ;
 —that

—that to behave in this manner was an aggravation of his guilt; and proved his soul as mean and abject as his principles were corrupt and base.

But Jenny, who was always ready to think the best, and besides had the eyes of her reason less obscured by passion, began immediately to entertain more favourable sentiments; — she found something in this letter, which, in spite of all the appearances against him, made her believe there was a possibility of his being wrong'd; — she could not forbear communicating her opinion to the ladies; and urg'd in the defence of it these arguments :

‘ Lord Huntley is a man of sense,
 ‘ said she, and if he was so wicked as to
 ‘ be capable of acting in the manner that
 ‘ has been represented, he could not be
 ‘ so stupidly weak as to desire a farther
 ‘ explanation of it;—certainly he would
 ‘ rather be intirely silent on that head :
 ‘ —if guilty, what would his pretensions
 ‘ to innocence avail?—his making any
 ‘ noise in relation to a fact which, if
 ‘ true, may be so plainly proved, would
 ‘ only serve to make his criminal designs
 ‘ more conspicuous, and expose his vil-
 E 4 ‘ lany

‘lany to those who otherwise might hear
‘nothing of it.’

‘All this is very true, my dear, re-
‘ply’d lady Speck, but yet there are
‘some men who have had the impudence
‘and folly, not only to court but even
‘actually marry a second wife while the
‘former has been living, and perhaps
‘too at less distance than ’tis likely lady
‘Huntley was when he first made his
‘addresses to my sister.’

‘It will not enter into my head, re-
‘fused Jenny, that lord Huntley is one
‘of these,—nor can I think it quite just
‘that a man should be absolutely con-
‘demn’d without a fair trial, or even
‘knowing by whom he is accused.’

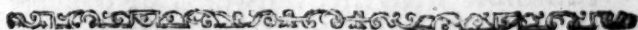
Lady Speck paus’d a little on these words, and then said,—that as she was certain sir Thomas Welby would not so positively assert a thing, the truth of which he was not well assured of, she was half inclined to grant lord Huntley’s request, though it were only the more to confound him.

Scarce had she done speaking in this manner when her woman came into the room, and told her that lord Huntley’s
servant

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servant who had brought the letter, and had waited all this time for an answer, begg'd to know if her ladyship had any commands to send by him ;— to which, after a short consideration, she reply'd, —‘ Yes, — he may tell his lord that I shall be at home.’

Miss Wingman had not open'd her mouth during this whole debate ; but now shew'd, by her countenance, that she was not displeased at the result ; and 'tis highly probable felt more impatience than she thought proper to express for what should pass in this important interview.



C H A P. VIII.

Serves only to render the cause more intricate, and involve the parties concern'd in it in fresh perplexities.

LADY Speck had given orders that when lord Huntley came he should be admitted, but no farther than the parlour.

It would have been pleasant enough for any one to have observed the meet-

ing of these two ; — he approach'd her with a profound reverence, but with a reserve which had something in it very near akin to resentment ; — she return'd his salutation with an air all distant and austere ; and they stood looking upon one another for the space of near half a minute without speaking.

Lady Speck was the first that broke silence ; — ‘ I did not expect, my lord, said she, that your lordship would have given yourself the trouble of making any visits here, after what I wrote to you last night.’

‘ It is not indeed, madam, a thing very common with me, answer'd he gravely, to go to any place where I have been once forbid ; — but I am pierc'd in too tender a part to stand upon punctilios ; — both my love and honour are wounded, — gash'd, — mangled in a most cruel and infamous degree ; and it is only from your ladyship's justice and humanity that I can hope a cure.’

‘ Can you deny, my lord, that you are married, cried she.’ — ‘ By Heaven ! — not married, — nor contracted, — return'd he eagerly : — nor, till I saw your charming sister, defy the whole world
‘ to

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‘ to prove I ever made the least proposal
‘ of that nature to any woman breathing.’

These words, and the manner in which they were deliver’d, began a little to stagger that belief of his infidelity which she till now had thought herself confirm’d in :—‘ If any part of what your lordship
‘ avers be true, said she, sir Thomas
‘ Welby must certainly have been imposed on by some very extraordinary
‘ methods.’

‘ Sir Thomas Welby, madam, retorted
‘ lord Huntley in great amazement ;
‘ is it then possible that he should be my
‘ accuser ?’—‘ There required a no less
‘ substantial evidence, said she, to authorize a supposition of your lordship’s
‘ being guilty of a crime like this :—
‘ But you may see what he says, added she,
‘ presenting him with sir Thomas’s letter.’

He read it hastily to himself, and as soon as he had done so, — ‘ I perceive
‘ indeed, madam, said he, that some uncommon arts have been put in practice
‘ against me,—for what reason I am not
‘ able to conceive ;—sir Thomas’s veracity is well known to me, and I think
‘ he has been inclined to favour my pretensions ; — I doubt not therefore but

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‘ he will readily afford me his assistance
 ‘ in diving to the bottom of this myste-
 ‘ rious villany ;—I am sure I shall lose
 ‘ no time, nor spare no pains to bring
 ‘ the dark incendiary to light ;— but,
 ‘ pursued he, I will trouble your ladyship
 ‘ no farther, nor even ask to see the ob-
 ‘ ject of my soul’s desire till my inno-
 ‘ cence is fully clear’d, and I have proved
 ‘ myself less unworthy of adoring her.’

He concluded these words with a low bow, and went directly out of the room, without waiting to hear what answer she might have made to them.

It was, perhaps, much for her ease that he did so ; for she was now in a consternation at his behaviour little inferior to what she felt on the first information of his crime ;—his words,—his looks,—his resolution, made a deep impression on her ;—she had seen grief and resentment in his countenance, but nothing that betoken’d a consciousness of guilt ; — she knew not what to think, — or how to form a right judgment of him, but ran immediately to Jenny and miss Wingman to impart to them all that had pass’d, and hear their sentiments upon it.

The latter of these young ladies was afraid of giving her opinion, probably lest it should be thought too favourable; but Jenny presently cried, that she could almost lay her life upon his innocence: — I dare believe, said she, that I have hit upon the real ground-work of this story; — the woman who would pass for his wife is certainly no other than some cast-off mistress of his, who either in revenge for his deserting her, or to give herself an air, assumes the name of lady Huntley.

‘No, no, miss Jessamy, interrupted lady Speck, it is impossible that sir Thomas would assert, in such positive terms, a thing of this nature on so slender a foundation, — I know him better, — and there must be something more in it than we can at present see into.’

While the ladies were in this dilemma lord Huntley, who the moment he had left lady Speck went in search of his two friends, sir Robert Manley and mr. Lovegrove, was now complaining to them of the aspersion cast upon him, and declaring his resolution of going to London with all possible expedition, in order to detect

detect the primary author of that calumny cast upon him.

These gentlemen, who had known his lordship for a considerable time, and had never heard any thing like his having consummated a marriage, were very much surpris'd that so odd a story should be rais'd, and highly applauded his intention of justifying himself as soon as he was able.

Both of them offer'd to be partakers of his journey ; — he told them he was greatly indebted to their friendship on this score ; but that he hoped he should soon return to Bath with the proofs of his innocence, and that it would be altogether needless for them to undergo the fatigues of accompanying him.

Sir Robert Manley, however, insisted on going with him ; — ‘ As for Lovegrove, said he, I think he stands better with lady Speck for some days past than he had ever done before, and it would be pity to take him from her at a time when she seems to be in such favourable dispositions towards him ; — but as for me, I have no mistress, at least none that will receive my vows, and consequently can have
‘ no

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‘ no pleasure equal to that of proving
‘ my sincerity to my friend ;—therefore,
‘ my dear lord, added he, if you do not
‘ suffer me to go with you in your coach,
‘ you shall not hinder me from following
‘ you on horseback.’

Lord Huntley was at last prevailed upon to take sir Robert with him on this expedition ; but though he hoped to return triumphant from it in four or five days at farthest, he would by no means hear of mr. Lovegrove’s leaving Bath for never so small a space of time, while lady Speck continued there.

They all dined together, after which sir Robert and mr. Lovegrove left lord Huntley, the one to give directions to his man for every thing to be got ready for his departure the next morning by break of day, and the other to pay his devoirs to his mistress.

Jenny, who would not be persuaded to keep her chamber any longer, though not quite recover’d enough to go abroad, was now come down into the dining room, and miss Wingman being resolv’d not to appear again in any public place while she remain’d at Bath, for fear of meeting lord Huntley ; lady Speck also,
in

in complaisance to them both, would not go out of the house ;—so that mr. Lovegrove, on his coming there, found them all at home.

The first compliments were no sooner over than the conversation began on lord Huntley's affair ; — mr. Lovegrove left nothing unsaid that he thought might contribute to make them entertain a more favourable opinion of his friend ;—he remonstrated to them the improbability of his being guilty in the manner he was represented ; and lady Speck and miss Wingman, in their turns, remonstrated the improbability that such a story could be raised without some sort of foundation ; but Jenny, as she had always done, sided with mr. Lovegrove, and took the part of the accused.

They were engaged in this dispute when sir Robert Manley came in,—that gentleman, though expecting to be back in a short time, was too polite to think of going without taking his leave of the ladies ; hearing what subject they were upon, he seconded mr. Lovegrove's arguments, and so warmly defended the cause of his absent friend, that lady Speck was obliged to cry out,— ‘ Well—well, let us have no more discourse upon
‘ this

JEMMY and JENNY JESSAMY. 89

‘ this head ;—it is time alone that can
‘ decide the point between us ;—for my
‘ part, added she, I sincerely wish his
‘ lordship my be found as innocent as
‘ you would persuade us to believe he is.’

‘ This is extremely generous in your
‘ ladyship, reply’d fir Robert; but madam,
‘ continued he, addressing himself to
‘ miss Wingman, how happy should I
‘ make my friend if I were permitted
‘ to carry to him the assurance that you
‘ also join’d with your sister in the
‘ same kind wish?’

‘ Lord Huntley may be certain, an-
‘ swer’d she blushing, that I should be
‘ very sorry a crime like what is laid to
‘ his charge should be proved on any in
‘ the world, much more on a person
‘ whom I cannot deny but I once thought
‘ highly deserving of my esteem.’

There pass’d nothing more of any
moment while they were together, which
was not very long, for the gentlemen
were impatient to return to lord Huntley,
who they knew was alone and stood in
need of all the consolation they could
give him ; — they staid the whole even-
ing with him, and rejoin’d him very
early in the morning, at which time he
set

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set out with sir Robert on his journey to
London.

~~XX~~

C H A P. IX.

Has in it some things of no small importance, though at present they may appear too insignificant to be inserted.

LORD Huntley being gone, and miss Wingman freed from all those dangers her mother apprehended for her, there seem'd no necessity for that young lady's leaving Bath; yet, as she had received such positive commands to do so, and Landy waited to conduct her, she thought she could not well excuse herself from going:—Jenny, who was now quite weary of the place, having lost all her relish for its pleasures, said all she could to fortify her in this resolution; and between them both lady Speck was prevail'd upon to think it right.

Accordingly both the sisters wrote to lady Wingman, giving her an exact account of all that had pass'd in relation to lord Huntley, and assuring her that they should throw themselves at her feet, as
soon

soon as the necessary preparations could be made for their journey.

But before I proceed any farther on the particulars of these ladies adventures, during the short time they had now to stay at Bath, I think it highly proper that the reader should be made fully acquainted with the several dispositions their minds were in at present.

As for lady Speck, the late behaviour of Celandine had render'd him so despicable in her eyes, that she wonder'd at herself for having been able ever to endure the conversation of such a fop, and much more to have been won to a liking of his person, the graces of which she now plainly saw were chiefly owing to his milliner and taylor :—Mr. Lovegrove, on the contrary, had shewn so much of the man of honour and of the respectful lover in what he had done, that she hesitated not a moment if she should give him the preference of all others who made their addresses to her ; and if she could not as yet entirely overcome her aversion to entering a second time into the bands of marriage, she however resolved not to change her condition except in favour of him.

Miss

Miss Wingman was in a situation very different from that of her sister ; — this young lady was of a humour extremely gay and volatile ; — she had never been at the pains of examining into the emotions of her own heart ; but she now found out a secret there which had hitherto been conceal'd as much from herself as from the world ; — those alarms with which she had been agitated at first on the accusation against lord Huntley, and the pleasure she had since felt in the assurances given her by sir Robert Manley and mr. Lovegrove, that it would be easy for him to prove his innocence, equally convinced her that he was not altogether so indifferent to her as she had imagined ; and this it was which perhaps, more than obedience to her mother's commands, made her so eager to return to London, where she thought she might soon be inform'd of the whole truth of this affair.

But poor Jenny labour'd under sensations of a yet more unquiet nature, — she had the confirmation of her lover's infidelity under his own hand ; and whether he was guilty to the degree she had at first believed, of courting another woman upon honourable terms, yet he could

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could not but appear extremely criminal in the attempt of purchasing the favour of one he intended only for a mistress, with the contempt of those solemn engagements he was bound in to herself.

In what other sense, indeed, was it possible for her to understand the first paragraph in that letter, which by his mistake in the superscription had fallen into her hands,—‘ Here is no room for
‘ doubt, cried she, the meaning is obvious and explicit,—his heart renounces
‘ the obligation his father laid him under, and which his own perjured tongue
‘ a thousand times has sworn he wished
‘ no greater blessing than to fulfil.’

‘ The ungrateful man, continued she, shall find no difficulty in getting rid of
‘ me, — I shall spare him the pains of
‘ seeking a pretence to break an engagement now grown so irksome to him,—
‘ nor shall I envy the woman to whom
‘ his faithless heart is next devoted ;—
‘ I shall always reflect on a distich I remember to have read in the works of
‘ old Michael Drayton.’

He that can falsify his vows to one,
Will be sincerely just and true to none.

Thus

Thus in some moments did she feel a kind of satisfaction in this early discovery of the inconstancy of his temper ;—others again presenting her with the idea of what she once believed him, all that was just, generous, virtuous, and sincere, threw her into the most melancholly musings ;—every innocent endearment that had passed between them from their tenderest infancy till this great period, came fresh into her memory, and made her deeply regret the finding him so much unworthy either of her love or friendship.

It is certain, that besides the vivacity and flow of spirits which are generally the companions of youth and affluence of fortune, and keep affliction from seizing too forcibly the vitals, she stood in need of all the good understanding she was endued with to enable her to sustain the shock of Jemmy's infidelity with that chearfulness she wish'd to do :—in spite of all her endeavours, she would sometimes fall into resveries which demanded other helps than those she received from within herself, to rouse her from entirely.

Though the natural sprightliness of lady Speck and her sister was very much abated,

abated, in the one by the secret remorse she felt for the encouragement she had given to Celandine, and in the other by her suspense on account of lord Huntley, yet neither of them were so taken up with their own cogitations as to neglect any thing in their power to dissipate the languour they observed in their fair friend.

But as it was Jemmy who had been the sole cause of her disquiet, so it was to him alone she was now indebted for her relief,—the night before their departure she received a letter from him containing these lines :

To miss JESSAMY at BATH.

My dear, dear JENNY,

“ I AM so happy as just to snatch an
 “ opportunity of acquainting you that
 “ the wedding is over,—I wish to heaven
 “ that the revels for it were so too, that
 “ I might be at liberty to get away;
 “ for, besides the impatience I am in to
 “ see you, I am quite sick of the incessant
 “ noisy mirth of those who come to
 “ testify their joy on this occasion; — I
 “ do not doubt but they take me for
 “ the most dull, stupid fellow in the
 “ universe;—and indeed how should it
 “ be otherwise? —In the midst of dan-
 “ cing

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“ cing,—drinking,—laughing,—romp-
 “ ing, I am absent;— my heart is with
 “ you at Bath, and representing to me
 “ the more true felicities I might enjoy
 “ in your dear conversation :—they tell
 “ me, this hurry is to continue no longer
 “ than six days ; but I think that an
 “ age, and nothing but my gratitude to
 “ my old friend, for the care he has
 “ taken of my affairs, should keep me
 “ a prisoner here for half that time :—
 “ be assured that as soon as I can get
 “ free, I shall do little more than pass
 “ through London in my way towards
 “ you ; — so that if I am deprived of
 “ participating with you in the pleasures
 “ of the place you are in, I shall at
 “ least have that of conducting you
 “ home,—till when, I hope, I need say
 “ nothing to convince you, that I am

“ Inviolably, and for ever,

“ My dear Jenny’s,

Ham-Hall,

“ Most affectionate

“ And devoted

“ J. JESSAMY.

“ P. S. When we meet, you may ex-
 “ pect a particular detail of what passes
 “ here,

“ here, and some description of the bride,
 “ who has indeed a fine outside, but I
 “ am afraid wants a little of my dear
 “ Jenny’s understanding ;—Harry, how-
 “ ever, finds no defect in her as yet, and
 “ I heartily wish, for both their sakes,
 “ he never may ;—every man’s lot is not
 “ so happy as mine. — Once more, my
 “ dear Jenny, adieu for a short time.

This letter was a kind of clue to guide Jenny through the labyrinth of perplexity she had been involved in ; — she knew very well that one of the gentlemen, appointed by the last will and testament of Jemmy’s father for his executor and trustee, had a seat call’d Ham-Hall in Bedfordshire ; — she had also heard that his son was about being married to a young lady of that county with a considerable fortune ; — she therefore easily conceived that the engagement mention’d by Jemmy in that former epistle, and which she imagined he had meant with herself, was in reality no other than being obliged to go down into the country on account of this wedding.

She immediately imparted to her two friends the letter she had received, and also gave them at the same time an explanation of the mystery which had given

her so much pain ;—both of them sincerely congratulated her on the occasion, especially miss Wingman, who took her in her arms crying out, — ‘ Did not I tell
 ‘ you, my dear, that mr. Jeffamy was not
 ‘ so guilty as you imagined ?’ — ‘ Aye,
 ‘ replied Jenny, — but for all that he is
 ‘ not quite innocent, nor will he find me
 ‘ very easy to give him absolution.’

‘ If criminal in no greater matters
 ‘ than a transient amour, rejoin’d lady
 ‘ Speck, I think you might forgive him,
 ‘ without putting him to the penance
 ‘ even of a blush by your reproaches.—
 ‘ In good truth we women have nothing
 ‘ to do with the men’s affairs in this point
 ‘ before marriage ;—and as I now begin
 ‘ to believe, in spite of all I have heard
 ‘ to the contrary, that he addressess no
 ‘ other woman than yourself upon honour-
 ‘ able terms, these are but venial trans-
 ‘ gressions, which you ought to over-
 ‘ look till you have made him your own.’

They were discoursing in this pleasant manner when mr. Lovegrove enter’d ;—he came to pass the evening with them, knowing their things being all pack’d up for their journey, they would not go abroad any more while they staid at Bath.

Talking

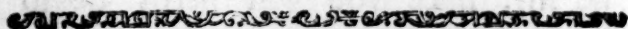
Talking of the hour in which they intended to set out, he said that he was extremely glad to know it, because he would give orders for a post-chaise to be ready exactly at the same time, that he might not have the mortification of being left behind them even for a moment.

Though he directed these words to the ladies in general, yet lady Speck knew very well they were meant only to herself; and looking on him with the most obliging air,—‘No mr. Lovegrove, said she, since you will needs be so complaisant as to accompany us, I see no occasion for your travelling in the way you mention;—as your own coach is not here, and there is a vacant place in mine, I am very certain we shall all be pleased to have it so agreeably fill’d.’

He was so transported with this offer, that he could not restrain himself from catching hold of her hand and kissing it with the most passionate gestures; — ‘This is a condescension, madam, said he, which I never durst have presumed to hope, much less to have requested; but it is the peculiar property of Heaven to prevent the petitions of its vassals

‘ by blessings the most unexpected, as
 ‘ well as undeserved.’

Miss Wingman and Jenny, finding they were likely to enter into a conversation which required no sharers, withdrew to a window as if to look at something that pass’d in the street ;—how far Mr. Lovegrove improved this opportunity is not material to particularize ;—the reader will easily suppose, that neither that, nor lady Speck’s good humour were thrown away upon him.



C H A P. X.

Is a digression of no consequence to the history, and may therefore either be read or omitted at discretion.

THE fun had made but a very short progress in his diurnal course, when lady Speck, Miss Wingman, and the amiable Jenny, accompanied by Mr. Lovegrove, set out on their journey for London, escorted by Landy and all their men-servants on horseback.

Our fair travellers soon found the advantage they had gain’d by the invitation

JEMMY and JENNY JESSAMY. 101

tion given to mr. Lovegrove ; — the innate satisfaction that gentleman felt on lady Speck's obliging behaviour towards him, diffused itself through all his air and features, and added a double vivacity to his conversation ; — he was all life, — all gaiety, — all spirits ; — he told a thousand diverting stories, and sung as many pretty songs ; so that if they had been more inclined to seriousness than they really were, it would have been impossible for them to have indulged any melancholy reflections in his company.

The day was near pass'd over in this agreeable manner, when a sudden stop was put to all their pleasantries ; — one of the hindmost wheels of the coach flew off its axis, and but for the coachman's uncommon presence of mind, in restraining the horses that same instant, some mischief might probably have ensued ; — all the servants immediately alighted endeavouring to repair the damage, but in vain ; — part of the ironwork was broke, and two spokes of the wheel had started with the shock : — this accident happened about five miles from the town where they had design'd to lie that night ; but as there was a small village pretty near, it was judged proper to walk thither, — as the only expedient in this exigence ; which

F 3

they

they did with a great deal of alacrity and chearfulness, while the dismember'd machine, though with some difficulty, was dragged after them.

The accommodation they found here was indifferent enough ; but what deficiencies are there in nature or in fortune which good humour cannot supply ?—the ladies laugh'd heartily at their little pilgrimage, and mr. Lovegrove made them all scamper about the room by attempting to wipe the dust off their shoes with his handkerchief.

In fine ;—their supper,—their lodging, all that to persons of less wit and more affectation would have been matters of the utmost mortification, to them serv'd only as subjects of diversion, and occasions a fresh pleasantry.

They arose next morning in the same chearful temper with which they had lain down ; nor did it abate on being told that the workmen who had been sent for to mend the coach could not pretend to make it fit to take the road for several hours :—as the place they were in afforded no other convenience to prosecute their journey, they resolved to make a virtue of necessity, and content themselves

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themselves with what was without a remedy.—Mr. Lovegrove, however, took upon himself the office of caterer, and was so fortunate as to provide an entertainment somewhat less inelegant than they had been obliged to content themselves with the night before.

But while dinner was getting ready an accident happen'd which contributed to make the time of their abode there seem shorter, by presenting them with a new theme of conversation.

The woman who kept the house, after having gently open'd the door of the room where they were, came in making a curtsy at every step she took, and approach'd the ladies with an, — ‘ I beg
‘ pardon, — I hope no offence, — but I
‘ have a poor guest below that would
‘ have me come up ;—I am very tender
‘ hearted,—though God knows what she
‘ is, or, who she is,—for my part I never
‘ saw her before last night in my whole
‘ life,—so I have nothing to answer for
‘ on that account ;—and if she be bad it
‘ is the worst for herself, — that is all I
‘ have to say.’

‘ If you have nothing more to say,
‘ mistress, cried mr. Lovegrove laugh-
F 4 ing,

'ing, I think you are very much to
 'blame to lose your time in telling us
 'so.'—'I hope your lordship's worship
 'and all their ladyships will excuse me;
 '—I am but a plain woman;—but God
 'knows my heart I mean no harm;—
 'but as I was saying, a poor young wo-
 'man, finding I had quality in my
 'house, has been baiting me this two
 'hours I am sure to shew you a snuff-
 'box she had got to sell;—how she
 'came by it I can't tell; but this I must
 'say, that she does not look like a thief;
 'though there are such sad doings in the
 'world that one does not know who to
 'trust.'

'Let us see it, however, said lady
 'Speck.'—'Aye, —aye, rejoind the
 'others, let us see it by all means;—on
 this the woman produced the box, tho'
 not without repeating several times over
 her former apologies.

The box was a most curious English
 pebble, set in gold, with a hinge and
 lining of the same metal;—they handed
 it from one to the other, and concluded
 that as it was a toy too genteel for the
 possession of a person in very abject cir-
 cumstances, it must either be stolen, or
 the real owner be reduced by some un-
 common

common distress to the necessity of parting with it.

The bare supposition that this latter might possibly be the case, inspiring them with a good deal of curiosity to know something farther of the matter, they told the woman they would buy the box, but should be glad to see the owner and bargain for it with herself, — on which she went out of the room, but return'd immediately, bringing with her the person in question.

‘ This, said she, is the young woman,
 ‘ — she says she come very honestly by
 ‘ the box,—as I told your honours before,
 ‘ I know nothing of the matter,—she is
 ‘ quite a stranger to me, but I shall leave
 ‘ her with you, and if your honour and
 ‘ ladyships worships will be pleased to
 ‘ examine her you may-hap will be better
 ‘ judges than I am ;—for my part I have
 ‘ a great deal of business to do and cannot
 ‘ be spared any longer from my bar
 ‘ and my kitchen ;—indeed there is no
 ‘ body but myself to take care of any
 ‘ thing in this house, though I have a
 ‘ husband and a daughter at woman’s
 ‘ estate, as I may say, for she is past fourteen,
 ‘ yet all lies upon me, so I hope
 ‘ your honours will excuse me.’

It may be easily imagined that all the company were very glad to get rid of her impertinent babble, so readily dismiss'd her; mr. Lovegrove telling her at the same time, with an ironical complaisance, that he was extremely troubled she had wasted so many of her important minutes on so trivial an occasion.

After this prating woman was gone, the young person she had left behind, and who had enter'd no farther than just within the door, on being desir'd to come forward advanced with a slow and timid air, yet which had nothing in it of the appearance of a conscious guilt;— notwithstanding the disguise of an old fashion'd long ridinghood, which cover'd her whole body, and even hid some part of her lovely face, there was still enough to be seen to prepossess any beholder in her favour.

Her extreme youth, for she seem'd not to have exceeded fifteen or sixteen years at farthest, the delicacy of her complexion, and of those features which she suffer'd to be exposed to view, excited a kind of respectful compassion in the hearts of all those she was at present with.

Mr.

Mr. Lovegrove, who had undertaken to be the speaker, began with asking her, if she was the owner of the box before them; to which she answering in the affirmative,—‘ I am very sorry then, said he, and I am certain that all here are so, that any exigence should oblige you to dispose of it.’

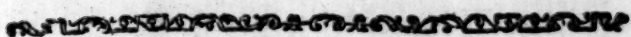
‘ The vicissitudes of fortune, sir, reply’d she with a becoming assurance, are too frequently experienced in the affairs of life to raise much wonder, or to know much pity, except from the hearts of a generous few.’

‘ That is true, resumed mr. Lovegrove; but you are too young to have been subjected to them by any of those ways the fickle goddess ordinarily takes to shew her power over the world;—the distress you labour under must therefore proceed from some uncommon source, which if you thought proper to communicate, I dare answer you are now among persons who would not only wish, but also make it their endeavour to lessen the weight of your affliction.’

She was about to make some reply but was prevented by lady Speck, who immediately subjoining to what mr. Lovegrove had said,—‘There is nothing wanting, cried she, but the knowledge of your affairs to make me shew my readiness to serve you.’ — The other two ladies spoke much to the same purpose, especially Jenny, who had taken a more than ordinary fancy to this fair one.

After having thank’d them in the politest terms for their goodness to one so altogether a stranger to them ;—‘The accidents of my life, said she, are little worthy the attention of this company ; but since I am commanded to repeat them I shall make no scruple to obey, on condition I may be permitted to conceal the names of all the persons concern’d in them.’

They then assured her that they should content themselves with such things as she thought proper to impart, and, making her sit down, desired she would not delay one moment the satisfaction she had promised, which request she comply’d with, as will be seen in the succeeding chapter.



CHAP. XI.

*Isa continuation of the same digressioun,
which however insignificant it may
appear at present, the reader will
bereafter perhaps be glad to turn
back to the pages it contains.*

THE young stranger having been made acquainted, before her coming up stairs, of the rank and condition of the persons to whom she was about to be introduced, would not suffer herself to be any farther intreated by them, but began to satisfy the curiosity she had excited in these or the like words:

“ I am the daughter of a gentleman,
“ said she, who by living in his youth
“ above the income of his estate, has
“ been reduced to live below the dignity
“ of his birth, in order that his children
“ may not, at his decease, have too much
“ occasion to regret the situation in
“ which they shall be left.

“ It is impossible for any parent to
“ behave with greater tenderness and in-
“ dulgence, or to be more sincerely
“ anxious

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“ anxious for the welfare of his poste-
 “ rity ;—sensible of his former mistakes,
 “ he has often condescended to tell us,
 “ that he looks upon us as persons he
 “ has wrong’d, by having wasted what
 “ should have render’d comfortable the
 “ life he gave : — his affairs, however,
 “ are not on so ill a footing but that he
 “ supports his family in a genteel tho’
 “ not a grand manner ; and if he lives
 “ a few years longer, it is hoped will be
 “ able to leave the estate to my brother,
 “ now a student at Cambridge, born
 “ to inherit, free from all incumbrance,
 “ except myself and a sister some years
 “ elder than either of us.

“ As for a provision for myself and
 “ sister, I have heard him say that his
 “ scheme is, as soon as my brother
 “ arrives at a proper age, to match him
 “ with some woman of fortune, which
 “ fortune should be equally divided
 “ between us two, and a settlement made
 “ for her out of the estate.

“ He never flatter’d himself with the
 “ expectations of any offers of marriage
 “ to our advantage ; nor though he gave
 “ us all the accomplishments besitting
 “ our station in life, yet did he never
 “ encourage either of us to imagine that
 “ without

JEMMY *and* JENNY JESSAMY. III

“ without money we had any thing in
“ us capable of attracting a heart worthy
“ our acceptance.

“ But to my great misfortune he found
“ himself mistaken in this point ; — a
“ gentleman of a very large estate, hap-
“ pening to see me at a friend’s house
“ where I sometimes visited, took an ex-
“ traordinary fancy to me ; and after
“ some necessary enquiries concerning
“ my birth, character and circumstances,
“ came to wait upon my father and
“ ask’d his permission to make his ad-
“ dresses to me ; adding at the same
“ time, that he desir’d nothing but my-
“ self, and whatever fortune was intend-
“ ed for me might be given to my
“ sister.

“ This last was a prevailing argument
“ with my father, who, dear as I believe
“ I then was to him, would perhaps
“ have rather suffer’d me to lose so ad-
“ vantageous a match, than have con-
“ fess’d his incapacity of giving me a
“ portion.

“ But how fatal did this act of gene-
“ rosity in my lover prove to me ; —
“ my father, charmed with the proposal,
“ hesitated not to comply with it, pro-
“ vided

“ vided my consent might be obtain’d,
 “ which in his heart he resolv’d from
 “ that moment to compel me to grant,
 “ in case he should find me refractory
 “ to it.

“ It will doubtless seem a little strange
 “ to you, continued she, that I should
 “ mention as a misfortune what you
 “ might expect a girl in my precarious
 “ situation would have rejoiced at, and
 “ been elated with as the greatest good
 “ that could have befallen her; — the
 “ world I know condemns my folly,—
 “ I condemn myself,—yet was it as im-
 “ possible for me to act otherwise, as it
 “ is to repent of what I have done.

“ You will perhaps imagine that he is
 “ some deformed and loathsome creature,
 “ but I assure you he is not; for I must
 “ do him the justice to acknowledge,
 “ that, making an allowance for his
 “ age, which by his own account is pretty
 “ near fifty, few men can boast of ha-
 “ ving a more agreeable person; — that
 “ he has also a good understanding, —
 “ a great deal of ready wit, and is very
 “ facetious in conversation;—but all this
 “ was insufficient to engage my affection,
 “ and I have a certain delicacy in my
 “ nature, if I may so call it, which will
 “ not permit me, on any consideration
 “ whatever,

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“ whatever, to give my hand where my
“ heart will not go along with it.

“ The astonishment I felt on being
“ first inform’d of the new conquest I
“ had made, was succeeded by an adequate proportion of horror at being
“ commanded by my father to receive
“ that gentleman as the person ordain’d
“ by Heaven and him to be my husband,
“ and to look on such an alliance as the
“ greatest blessing that could be bestow’d
“ upon me.

“ I blush’d,—I trembled, and had not
“ power to make the least reply, till being urged to speak, I recollected, as
“ well as I was able, my scatter’d senses,
“ and cried, though with a broken and
“ faltering voice, that I was too young
“ to think of marriage; to which my
“ father sternly answer’d, — ‘ Be guided
“ then by those who know how to think
“ for you ;’ — and with these words left
“ me to consider on what he had said.

“ The same day my lover dined with
“ us, as I afterwards found, by the appointment of my father, who, as soon
“ as the cloth was taken away, retired
“ to his closet, pretending he had some
“ letters to write, and left me to entertain
“ tain

“ tain this guest, or rather to be enter-
 “ tain’d by him with the declaration of
 “ his passion.

“ He made it, indeed, in the most re-
 “ spectful terms;—he told me, that ha-
 “ ving lost his wife in bringing a son
 “ into the world, he had resolved never
 “ to transfer the affection for her to any
 “ any other woman; — that he devoted
 “ near two and twenty years to her me-
 “ mory; — that during the whole time
 “ of his widowhood he had never seen that
 “ face till mine which had the power to
 “ alienate his thoughts from the grave
 “ where she lay buried; — but that he
 “ no sooner beheld me, than he felt new
 “ life and new desires rekindling in him;
 “ —remember’d that he was a man, born
 “ to enjoy the social delights of pure and
 “ virtuous love, and at the same time
 “ found it was with me alone he could
 “ partake them.

“ As this sort of conversation, and in-
 “ deed every thing relating to love, was
 “ entirely new to me, I made but very
 “ aukward replies, and was so little able
 “ to express my real sentiments to him on
 “ that head, that I afterwards found he
 “ took what I said as the effects of sim-
 “ plicity

“ plicity and bashfulness, rather than any
“ aversion either to him or his proposals.

“ My father, who poor man rejoiced
“ in this opportunity of making my for-
“ tune, seem'd highly pleas'd with the
“ account my lover gave him of my be-
“ haviour ; — he told me I was a very
“ good girl, and that he doubted not but
“ that I should deserve the happiness
“ Heaven was about to confer upon
“ me :—‘ but, said he, though the mo-
“ desty with which I hear you received
“ this first declaration was very becom-
“ ing in a maid of your years ; yet, as we
“ have agreed the wedding shall be con-
“ summated in a few days, I would have
“ you grow less reserved on every visit
“ he makes you,—accustom yourself to
“ treat him by degrees with more free-
“ dom, to the end that when you are
“ made one, you may not be too much
“ strangers to each other.

“ This so frightened me, that I could
“ not forbear crying out with some vehe-
“ mence, — ‘ Oh, sir ! I conjure you not
“ to talk in this manner, — I never can
“ think of being married to him.

“ The look my father gave me at
“ these words will always be imprinted
“ on

“ on my memory. — ‘ Never think of
 “ being married to him ! said he, then
 “ never think I am your father ;—think
 “ rather of being an utter alien, — an
 “ outcast from my name and family ;—
 “ think of begging,—starving,— of in-
 “ famy, contempt and wretchedness.

“ These cruel expressions coming from
 “ the mouth of a parent, who till now
 “ had always used me with the extrem-
 “ est tenderness, cut me to the very
 “ soul ;—I threw myself at his feet, — I
 “ wept, — I beseech’d him to moderate
 “ his passion, and protested, as I might
 “ do with the greatest sincerity, that the
 “ thoughts of offending him was more
 “ terrible to me than those of death it-
 “ self.

“ He appear’d somewhat mollify’d
 “ with these submissions ;—‘ Child, said
 “ he, raising me from the posture I was
 “ in,—you cannot be so ignorant as not
 “ to know what I do in this affair is
 “ wholly for your happiness ; though,
 “ indeed, whenever Heaven is pleased to
 “ call me hence, it would be an infinite
 “ satisfaction to me in my dying mo-
 “ ments that I left one of my daughters
 “ independent. — I could wish, added
 “ he, looking towards my sister who sat
 “ at

“ at work in the room, that she had an
 “ offer equally advantageous.

“ If I had, sir, reply'd she pertly, I
 “ should scarce be so mad or silly as to
 “ run the risque of disobliging, you and
 “ at the same time of ruining myself by
 “ refusing it.”

The beautiful stranger was in this part of her little history when she found herself oblig'd to break off by seeing dinner brought upon the table; — she would have withdrawn till the company should be more at leisure; but they insisted, in the most strenuous terms, that she would be their guest; to which, after making some few apologies, she consented.



C H A P. XII.

Concludes the distressful narrative.

AS the waiters were present, nothing was said during the whole time of dinner, concerning the subject which that necessary appendix to life had interrupted; but the cloth was no sooner taken away, than the three ladies, as well as mr. Lovegrove, testify'd the interest they took

took in their fair guest's affairs, by their impatience for knowing the event.

She reply'd to the many complaisant things they said to her with such an air and grace as convinced them, more than any thing she had related, that she had indeed been educated in the most genteel manner, and also been accustom'd to converse with persons of the best fashion and greatest politeness.

But though the discourse that pass'd between them, on the score of mere civility, might very well deserve a place in this work, I shall omit the repetition, as it might be apt to make the reader's attention wander from the main point; and only say, that she prosecuted her history in the following terms :

“ My father, said she, now condescended to talk to me in the mildest,
 “ and withal in the most pathetic stile;
 “ —he endeavoured to allure my young
 “ heart by enumerating and displaying
 “ the pleasures that attend on wealth
 “ and grandeur; — he remonstrated to
 “ me, that the circumstances of our family
 “ would not permit his children,
 “ especially his daughters, to be directed
 “ only by inclination in the article of
 “ marriage;

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“ marriage ; and that as I could find no
“ possible objection to my lover but be-
“ ing somewhat too old, gratitude for
“ the happiness he was ready to put me
“ in possession of, might very well atone
“ for that defect.

“ You say you cannot love this gen-
“ tleman, continued he ; but pray what
“ is this passion that is call'd love but a
“ vain delusion, an ignis fatuus of the
“ mind that leads all that follow it
“ astray ;—suppose, rejecting the certain
“ good, fortune now puts into your power,
“ and you should hereafter fix your
“ fancy either on some one who has not
“ the means of supporting you, or on
“ one who returns not your affections,
“ how truly miserable would be your
“ state !

“ I could find no arguments to oppose
“ against those he urged, and could
“ only answer with my tears,—till being
“ bid to speak, and the command se-
“ veral times repeated, I at last sobb'd
“ out, — that I would make use of my
“ utmost endeavours to obey him.

“ I know not whether his meanaces
“ at first, and his persuasions afterwards,
“ might not have made me at that time
“ promise

“ promise to do every thing he would
 “ have me; but some company coming
 “ in, luckily perserved me from adding
 “ to the guilt of disobedience that of
 “ deceit.

“ These visitors staid with us till
 “ very late, so I was reliev’d from any
 “ farther persecutions for that night;
 “ but the next morning at breakfast
 “ they were renew’d, and as I had no
 “ heart to consent, nor courage absolute-
 “ ly to refuse, I could only beg him to
 “ allow me a little time to bring my
 “ mind to a conformity with his will.

“ It is certain that my averſion to this
 “ match seem’d unreasonable even to my-
 “ self, and I did all I could to conquer
 “ it; but my efforts to that purpose be-
 “ ing fruitless, I set myself to consider,
 “ whether to live under the everlasting
 “ displeasure of a father whom I revered
 “ and loved, perhaps turn’d out of doors
 “ by him and exposed to poverty and
 “ contempt, or to pass my whole life in
 “ opulence with the man I hated, would
 “ be the least of evils.

“ Oh, ladies!—how impossible is it to
 “ represent what it was I felt while thus
 “ employ’d;—to which soever of these
 “ ways I turn’d my thoughts I was all
 “ horror

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“horror and confusion; — the present
“idea seemed still the worst; — I was
“distracted, — irresolute, and fluctuated
“between both; and all I knew of my-
“self was, that I was wholly incapable
“of supporting either.

“To heighten my affliction, though
“I had many acquaintance, I had no one
“friend on whom I could depend for
“assistance or advice; — my sister, who
“by the rules of nature should have
“pitied my distress, rather added to it
“by all the ways she could invent.

“Indeed she never loved me, and I
“have reason to believe I owe great
“part of my father’s severity to her in-
“sinuations; — I will tell you an inci-
“dent which confirms me in that be-
“lief,—it was this:

“The very Sunday before the mis-
“fortune I am now reciting befel me,
“a young gentleman happened to sit in
“a pew just opposite to mine,—he fix’d
“his eyes upon me with so much earnest-
“ness, during the whole time of divine
“service, that I could not help obser-
“ving him with some confusion;—after
“we came out of church, turning my
“head back on some occasion, I per-
“ceived he followed me, though at a
“distance;

“ distance ; but when I came near our
 “ door, the footman who attended me
 “ stepping before to knock, he advanced
 “ hastily and came time enough to make
 “ me a profound reverence just as I was
 “ entering the house ; — I was a little
 “ confounded, as I had never seen him
 “ before ; — I return’d his civility, how-
 “ ever, and went in ; — my sister, who
 “ had not been at church that day, was
 “ looking out of a window and beheld
 “ this passage ; — she rallied me a little
 “ upon it, and ask’d me who that pretty
 “ fellow was that came to the door with
 “ me ; — I told her the simple truth, and
 “ it pass’d off till we were going to bed,
 “ when one of the maids told me, in
 “ her presence, a fine young gentleman
 “ had watch’d the footman as he was
 “ going out on some errand, and ask’d
 “ him abundance of questions concern-
 “ ing me ; — I thought it a little strange,
 “ but said nothing, nor did my sister
 “ seem to take much notice of it.

“ I thought little of this adventure,
 “ but found she afterwards made a
 “ handle of it, not only to possess my fa-
 “ ther with an opinion that I rejected the
 “ lover he recommended to me for the
 “ sake of one who was my own choice,
 “ but also to reproach me as having en-
 “ couraged a clandestine courtship.

“ I mention this only to shew how
“ destitute I was of any consolation what-
“ soever ; but in the midst of perturba-
“ tions, which almost deprived me of
“ my senses, an expedient started at
“ once into my head, which flatter’d me
“ with some small prospect of relief.

“ My lover appeared to be a man who
“ wanted neither good sense nor gene-
“ rosity ; and I fancied that if he knew
“ the true state of my heart, the one
“ would shew him the extreme madness
“ of marrying a woman who had so utter
“ a dislike to him, and the other make
“ him ashamed of rendering miserable
“ the person he pretended to love.

“ On this foundation I built my hopes,
“ and resolved on his next visit to make
“ him thoroughly acquainted with the de-
“ plorable condition to which I was re-
“ duced by his unfortunate passion ; and
“ to beseech him to withdraw his preten-
“ sions as of his own accord, and without
“ hinting to my father that any thing in
“ my behaviour had been the cause.

“ But alas ! — I had no sooner con-
“ triv’d this project, than I found the
“ impracticability of putting it into execu-
“ tion ;

“ tion ;—my father had a closet which
“ opened from his bed-chamber, was be-
“ tween that and the dining-room, and
“ divided from the latter but by a thin
“ partition.

“ Good God, continued this afflicted
“ fair one, how every thing conspired
“ against me, — my father had always
“ kept the key of this closet himself, but
“ now had given it to my sister, and I
“ soon found for no other purpose than
“ that she should hear from thence what
“ pass’d between me and my lover, and
“ give him an account.

“ Though I only suspected this at first,
“ but was certain of it when being call’d
“ down from the chamber where I lay
“ to receive my lover who waited for
“ me in the dining-room, I saw, as I
“ cross’d the stair-case, the shadow of
“ my sister passing hastily into the very
“ closet I have mention’d.

“ The old gentleman was in great
“ good humour that day, and perhaps
“ my tears and prayers might have work’d
“ on him the effect I wish’d, had I not
“ been so unhappily disappointed of ma-
“ king the experiment.

“ Having

“ Having taken notice, I suppose,
 “ that I wore no watch, though indeed
 “ I had one, but it being out of order
 “ was sent some time before to be mend-
 “ ed he brought with him a fine repeater
 “ set round with diamonds, and begg’d
 “ me to accept it;—as I knew who was
 “ witness of our conversation I durst not
 “ refuse his present, and much less talk
 “ to him in the manner I had intended.

“ I knew not then what course to take,
 “ but at last bethought me of employing
 “ my pen to give him that information
 “ which my tongue was deprived of all
 “ opportunity of doing;—accordingly I
 “ wrote to him in this manner :

“ SIR,

“ **I**T is only in your power to save me
 “ from the worst of miseries,—that of
 “ a forced marriage;—my father is in-
 “ exorable to my tears, and resolute to
 “ compel me to be yours; but not all
 “ his authority, your merits, nor my
 “ just sensibility of them can ever bring
 “ my heart to consent to the union you
 “ propose:—in fine, I cannot love you
 “ as a husband, but shall always regard
 “ you as the best of friends, if you fore-
 “ go the claim parental power has given
 “ you,

“ you, and refuse that hand, the acceptance
 “ of which would infallibly make you
 “ no less wretched than myself; — con-
 “ sider therefore, sir, what it is you are
 “ about, and drive not an unhappy
 “ maid to desperation; for be assured I
 “ will seek relief in death rather than
 “ be

Yours.

“ This I folded up, but neither sealed
 “ nor directed it, as I designed to slip it
 “ into his own hands as he should be go-
 “ ing away from his next visit; — but
 “ here again my scheme was frustrated,
 “ my father coming home before he went
 “ away and waiting on him down stairs.

“ The ensuing day, however, I thought
 “ myself more fortunate; — he came, and
 “ business calling him away somewhat
 “ before his usual hour, I follow’d to
 “ the dining-room door and gave him
 “ the paper, saying at the same time, —
 “ I beseech you, sir, to consider seriously
 “ on the contents of this, — and make
 “ no mention of it to my father.’

“ He look’d very much surpris’d, and
 “ seem’d as if about to open what I gave
 “ him; but I clapp’d my hand hastily
 “ upon

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“ upon his,—crying, — For Heaven’s
“ sake take care what you do, this is no
“ proper place ;’—and with these words
“ turn’d quick into the room to prevent
“ any questions he might have made.

“ My heart flutter’d a little at the step
“ I had taken ;—suspence is a very un-
“ easy situation ; but as I thought it im-
“ possible that any man would venture
“ to marry a woman who had wrote to
“ him in the manner I had done, I grew
“ more composed, and slept much better
“ that night than for several preceding
“ ones.

“ But, oh ! how short lived was my
“ ease, and how terrible a surcharge of
“ of woe did the next day present me
“ with ;—my father, who went out soon
“ after breakfast, return’d not till the
“ cloth was laid for dinner, and then
“ only to tell me that he had been with
“ my lover all the morning ;—that every
“ thing was concluded between them ;
“ and that the marriage should be so-
“ lemnized at our house the evening of
“ the succeeding day.

“ Judge, ladies, of my condition ;—
“ the convict at the bar feels not more
“ horror at the sentence of approaching
“ fate,

“ fate, than I did at the event which I
“ had vainly flatter’d myself was far re-
“ moved from me ; — the amazement I
“ was in kept me for some moments in
“ a kind of stupid silence ; — my father
“ was so taken up in directing my sister
“ what preparations she should make for
“ this affair that he regarded not my con-
“ fusion, till grief and despair unloosed
“ my tongue, and I cried out, — Oh, sir,
“ did you not say I should have time ? ”

“ Time, reply’d he, can any time be
“ more lucky for you than this, when
“ you are going to have the same settle-
“ ment as if you brought ten thousand
“ pounds ? your lover is so pleased with
“ the pretty trick you play’d him last
“ night, that I believe I might have got
“ more for you if I had insisted upon it ;
“ — but this was his own offer, and it is
“ very well ; — we are going together to
“ my lawyer’s to order the writings.’

“ My sister then ask’d him if he
“ would not dine, to which he answer’d
“ in the negative, and after giving her
“ some farther instructions, left us to
“ return to his intended son-in-law, who
“ he said waited for him at the choco-
“ late-house.

“ Dinner

“Dinner was presently brought in,—I
“sat down, but could not eat a bit; —
“my sister, who since the death of my
“mother had been house-keeper and
“affected to be very notable, talked of
“nothing but the hurry she should be in,
“—and what should be the first,—and
“what should be the second course of
“the wedding supper; for though there
“were but two or three friends to be in-
“vited, yet my father had order’d that
“every thing for this dreadful ceremony
“should be set forth with as much elegance
“as possible.

“On my making no reply to all she
“said, she told me I was a sullen fool,
“and did not deserve my good fortune;
“—I had no spirit to enter into any al-
“tercations with her, so flung from the
“table and retir’d to my chamber to
“vent those cruel agitations with which
“I was now more than ever over-
“whelm’d.

“The first reflections that occur’d to
“me were on this hated lover’s being
“pleased with the paper I had given
“him, and telling my father that I had
“play’d him a pretty trick.—What,
“cried I to myself, is it not enough that

“ he neglects my complaints, — must
“ he also insult me for them, and turn
“ my grief into derision?

“ But I had no time to waste on this
“ subject, — my doom was fix’d, and I
“ must either fly or tamely submit to it ;
“ —I resolved on the former whatever
“ should be the consequence, and now
“ thought of nothing but the means of
“ accomplishing it.

“ It was not long before I determin’d
“ on what course to take ; I have an aunt
“ married to a merchant at Cork, — I
“ believe she will grant me her pro-
“ tection,—I am going, however, to make
“ the experiment, and if she refuses, must
“ content myself to earn my bread either
“ by going to service or working at my
“ needle.”



CHAP.



C H A P. XIII.

May properly enough come under the denomination of an appendix to the three last preceding chapters, as containing some things which ought to have been inserted in them.

THE fair fugitive now thought she had related all that was expected from her; but lady Speck, perceiving she had done speaking, prevented what any of the rest of the company would have said on that occasion, by crying out hastily,—‘Madam, you have not given
 ‘us an account of the manner of your
 ‘escaping the misfortune you so much
 ‘dreaded; — we see you here, but know
 ‘not by what means you are so,—without
 ‘which your history will be imperfect.’

‘As I may perhaps have been too
 ‘circumstantial in some parts of my
 ‘narrative, reply’d she, I was cautious
 ‘not to weary out your patience by any
 ‘farther particulars of an event so little
 ‘deserving your regard; — but as you
 ‘are so good to afford me your atten-
 G 6 ‘tion,

' tion, I shall readily make you a detail
 ' of whatever pass'd from the moment
 ' of my resolving to fly my father's
 ' house to that of my arrival at a place
 ' where I have the honour to be so ge-
 ' nerously entertain'd; and I am the
 ' more glad to do it, as there is indeed
 ' one thing which, in common justice to
 ' the gentleman who made his addresses
 ' to me, I ought not to have omitted.'

" As to my departure, pursued she,
 " nothing was more easy to be accom-
 " plish'd;—no one suspected I had any
 " thoughts of it, so no care was taken
 " to prevent my flight, either by con-
 " fining my person or setting any body
 " to observe my motions;—but I was
 " willing to take such of my things as I
 " could conveniently carry with me;
 " this requir'd some contrivance;—there
 " was no possibility of sending a trunk
 " or portmanteau out of the house, there-
 " fore found I was obliged to leave
 " every thing behind me which I could
 " not be the porter of myself.

" My sister was mighty busy all that
 " afternoon in her domestic affairs;—
 " I employ'd that time in looking over
 " my wearing apparel and made the
 " best assortment of them I could, select-
 " ing

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“ ing those which I thought I could least
“ support the want of ; — my fine laces
“ I cramm’d into a handkerchief, in order
“ to put into my pockets ; and the more
“ bulky part of my linnen, with some
“ upper garments, I tied in two pillow-
“ cases, and then essay’d whether I could
“ carry them on each side under my
“ hoop-petticoat, and found I could do
“ it very well ; — certainly these vast
“ French hoops were invented chiefly
“ for the convenience of those who carry
“ about them what they want should
“ be conceal’d.”

Not only mr. Lovegrove, but the ladies themselves laugh’d heartily at this reflection on their mode ; — but they would not interrupt her, and she went on :

“ Finding I was able to walk under
“ the burthens I had prepared, at least
“ as far as out of the sight of our house,
“ I put them all together into a large
“ trunk, pack’d up as they were, ready
“ for a march next morning ; for I
“ thought it not adviseable to go that
“ night, as lying at any house in town
“ might endanger a discovery, and I
“ knew that no carriage of any kind
“ would set out before day-break.

“ After

“ After this I sat down and consider’d
“ what more was to be done before I
“ went away,—my father till now had
“ always been most indulgent to me,—
“ humour’d me in every thing ; and
“ even this last act of power, cruel as it
“ was, I know was kindly meant ; — I
“ could not therefore think of leaving
“ him, perhaps for ever, without letting
“ him see I had not quite forgot the
“ reverence I owed him.

“ I then took pen and paper and wrote
“ a letter to him ;— I cannot remember
“ exactly the expressions I made use of,
“ but know they were as pathetic as
“ could be dictated by a heart over-
“ flowing, as mine was, with filial love
“ and grief.

“ I told him that I had exerted the
“ whole force of my endeavours to obey
“ him ;—that my reason and the insur-
“ mountable aversion I had to the match
“ he propos’d, had occasion’d conflicts
“ in my breast which life could scarce
“ sustain ; that I fled not from the pre-
“ sence of the best of fathers, but to
“ avoid being guilty of a deed, which
“ would have been yet more grievous
“ to him ;—begg’d him to forgive me,
and

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“ and to rest assured that to what ex-
“ gencies soever I might be reduced in
“ this forlorn and helpless condition,
“ nothing should tempt me to bring
“ disgrace upon my family or dishonour
“ to myself.

“ Having finish’d this melancholy
“ epistle, I threw it into the drawer of
“ a little escrutore, designing to take it
“ with me in the morning and send it to
“ my father by the penny-post; — but,
“ good God! how great was my con-
“ fusion, when happening to look over
“ some writings I have there, I know
“ not for what reason, for I had nothing
“ which I fear’d should be expos’d after
“ I was gone, one of the first things I
“ laid my hands on was the very paper
“ I had wrote to my lover, and thought
“ I had given to him.

“ I did not presently conceive how
“ this could be; — I knew I had wrote
“ no copy, and that it was the same
“ which I had been certain of having
“ deliver’d to him; but at last I re-
“ member’d, that not being able to give
“ it to him on the day I intended, I had
“ put it into this drawer to prevent its
“ being seen by any accident; — and this
“ recollection convinced me, that instead
“ of

“ of a letter of complaint he had received from me a foolish love song, though set to very good music, which a lady of my acquaintance had desired me to write out for her, and I thought, as I could not find it, I had dropt it from my pocket,—It began thus :

“ Dearest Damon would you shew
 “ What a faithful man can do,
 “ Love me ever,
 “ Leave me never.

She was proceeding, but mr. Lovegrove was so highly diverted with this incident, that he could not forbear interrupting her, — ‘ By Heaven, madam, said he, it would have been cruel in you to have made us lose so agreeable a part of your history.’

The ladies express’d themselves in much the same manner ;—‘ I cannot help laughing, cried lady Speck, to think of the old gentleman’s transports on receiving so fond a remonstrance from his young mistress;’--‘ Nor I, subjoin’d miss Wingman, at the idea how much he must be mortified when he found himself deceived.’—‘ For my part, said Jenny, in a more serious air, I pity the poor man, and am heartily sorry for the lady,

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‘ lady, who but for this mistake might
‘ not perhaps have been driven to the
‘ necessity of quitting her father’s house.’

“ It is utterly impossible, madam, re-
“ ply’d the other, resuming the thread
“ of her discourse, to know what would
“ have happen’d, had this not been the
“ case ; — I was, however, so much
“ shock’d at the thoughts of what I had
“ done, that I resolv’d to let him con-
“ tinue in his error no longer than I had
“ it in my power to convince him of it ;
“ —to this end I inclos’d the letter I
“ had design’d for him in another piece of
“ paper, in which I wrote,—I think to
“ this effect :

“ SIR,

“ **T**HE silly paper, which by mistake
“ I put into your hands, must cer-
“ tainly have given you a very odd opinion
“ both of my understanding and sin-
“ cerity.

“ This will, however, undeceive you
“ as to the latter, by shewing you I meant
“ not to disguise the true situation of my
“ heart, which had you sooner known,
“ perhaps I might not have been the
“ wretch I am ;—but it is now too late,
“ and all the hopes I flatter’d myself with
“ from

“ from your generosity and compassion
“ are vanish’d into air.

“ Yes, sir, the agreement made be-
“ tween my father and yourself drives
“ me from all I once thought happiness;
“ but beg you to believe that I shall
“ always retain a grateful sense of the
“ advantages offer’d me by your love,
“ how miserable soever it has made me,
“ and shall never cease to wish you may
“ long enjoy all those blessings in life
“ which cruel destiny denies any part
“ of to

“ The forlorn, &c.

“ To this, continued she, I added a
“ postscript, to let him know that I left
“ behind me the watch which he had
“ been so good to present me with, and
“ doubted not but my father would re-
“ turn it to him as soon as my flight
“ should be discover’d.

“ Having dispatch’d all that I thought
“ necessary for my going, my mind for
“ some moments was as easy and com-
“ posed as if the preparations I had been
“ making were only for a journey of
“ pleasure; — but alas, the sad occasion
“ soon recoiled upon me, and fill’d me
“ with most gloomy apprehensions.

“ My

" My father came home in the even-
 " ing in so jocosé a humour as hinder'd
 " him from observing that melancholy
 " which I could not else have been able
 " to hide from him ; — he had, indeed,
 " been drinking more freely than he was
 " accusom'd ; and I found also by
 " what he said, that my lover, by toast-
 " ing my health too plentifully, had
 " render'd himself incapable of waiting
 " on me that night.

" Nothing material happen'd after-
 " wards to the time of my elopement,
 " which every thing seem'd to favour ;
 " —my sister went very early in the
 " morning to Covent-Garden to buy
 " fruit for the desert, taking one of the
 " men with her to bring home what
 " purchases she made ; — the other was
 " busy in cleaning the plate ; — all the
 " maids were in the kitchen, and my
 " father was yet in bed ; — so the coast
 " being entirely clear, I tyed my paniers
 " to my sides, — stuffed my pockets with
 " as much as they would contain, and
 " went directly out of the house without
 " being seen by any body ; though I be-
 " lieve whoever had met me would not
 " have guess'd in what manner I was
 " equipp'd ; — I made all the haste I
 " could

“ could out of the street however,—stept
“ into the first hackney coach I found,
“ and drove to a place where I remem-
“ bered to have seen second-hand cloaths
“ hung up for sale,—there I bought this
“ riding-hood, which I thought would
“ be some kind of a disguise,

“ Bristol being just opposite to that
“ part of Ireland where my aunt lives, I
“ had no other route to take ; but in the
“ hurry of my thoughts, had never once
“ consider’d that as I had secured no
“ place in the stage-coach it was a thou-
“ sand against one if there would be any
“ room for me in it at this season of the
“ year.

“ I did not forget, however, in my
“ way to the inn, to put the letters I had
“ wrote to my father and lover into the
“ penny-post, but found when I came
“ there the coach was not only full but
“ had set out above an hour before ;—
“ this put me into great perplexity ; but
“ I was now embark’d on an expedition,
“ and must go through it some how or
“ other ; — the Windsor stage was just
“ going out, and had a place which I
“ gladly fill’d, in order to be so far on
“ my journey.

“ On

“ On my arrival there, I was at as
 “ great a loss as before; but being told
 “ that if I hired a chaise to Maidenhead
 “ I might possibly find a place in some
 “ one or other of the coaches that put in
 “ there,—I took this advice, but would
 “ not lie in that town lest I should be
 “ seen by some persons of my acquaint-
 “ tance that lived there, so drove on to
 “ this village, which I thought would
 “ answer my purpose as well, as I should
 “ catch the coaches as they pass’d by this
 “ morning; — I got up very early that
 “ I might be ready for the first, for it
 “ was indifferent to me in which I went,
 “ provided they took the road I wanted
 “ to go; but my hopes deceived me,
 “ every one that came this way was full.

“ But this was not the only, nor the
 “ worst disappointment I met with at
 “ this place;—having laid out what loose
 “ money I had about me, I thought to
 “ have recourse to my purse, in which,
 “ besides sufficient to defray the ex-
 “ pences of my journey, there was a
 “ diamond ring which had been my mo-
 “ ther’s, and a medal which I set a high
 “ value upon;— not finding it presently
 “ I was very much alarm’d, — I pull’d
 “ every thing out of my pockets that
 “ were

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“ were in them, but the examination only
 “ serv’d to convince me that what I
 “ sought was lost; — I know not how
 “ this accident happen’d, nor is it of any
 “ importance.

“ It is easy to conceive how terrible
 “ a misfortune this was to a person in
 “ my present circumstances; — I should
 “ have been driven to the last despair, if
 “ a thought had not occur’d to me, that
 “ the little box I took the liberty of
 “ sending by the woman of the house
 “ might be acceptable to some one or
 “ other of this company.”

Here ended all she had to say, but the conclusion was accompanied with some tears, which notwithstanding robb’d the eyes from which they fell, of no part of their lustre.

C H A P.



~~AROUND THE YOUNG FETTERED~~

C H A P. XIV.

*Contains much matter for edification,
but very little for entertainment.*

THE distresses of a beautiful person have a double influence over the heart,—those misfortunes which the dignity of our nature obliges us to commiserate, excite a more kindly warmth, a more interested concern, in proportion to the loveliness of the object we see labouring under them.

There was something in the air and whole behaviour of this young stranger; which, join'd to the calamity of her present condition, had a kind of magnetic force capable of attracting both respect and compassion in minds less generous and gentle than those of the company she now was with.

They thank'd her for the pleasure she had given them in the recital of her adventures, and at the same time testify'd the most affectionate concern for the event.

Each

Each having express'd some part of their sentiments on this occasion, lady Speck drew her sister and Jenny aside, and, after a short whisper between themselves, all return'd again to their seats, and the former addressing herself to their unfortunate guest, spoke in this manner:

‘ We cannot think, madam, said she, of depriving you of a thing which an unforeseen necessity has oblig'd you to expose to sale; but if you please to receive a small contribution in lieu of a purchase, we shall take your acceptance as a favour done to ourselves.’

With these words her ladyship put six guineas into her hand, which she took, bow'd and blush'd, though not half so much as Jenny did, who was extremely scandaliz'd at the meanness of the present, though she did not think proper to discover her opinion of it at that time.

On this mr. Lovegrove, who doubtless had his own reflections,—cried hastily out,—‘ Then, ladies, since you will not buy the box I will,—I have a mind to make a present of it to a lady.’ — ‘ I protest I will not have it, said lady Speck;—’ Nor I, rejoin'd miss Wing-

‘ man;’

‘man ;’—‘Nor I, cried Jenny.’—‘You need not be under this agitation, ladies,’ reply’d he smiling, for I assure you, it neither was nor is my intention to make an offering of it to any of you.’

They all looked a little grave at hearing him speak in this manner, but said nothing, while he counted ten guineas out of his purse and presented to the fair fugitive with one hand, and with the other in the same moment took up the snuff-box, which had all this time lain on a side-board near which he sat ; — ‘This, madam, said he, is an equivalent I believe.’

He then put the box into his pocket with a very serious air, but immediately taking it out again laid it into the lap of the owner ;—‘You are the only person, madam, said he, to whom I ought to make this present, — be pleased to accept it as a token of my sincere respect for a lady who at your years can have behaved with so much fortitude and resolution.’

All the ladies were highly pleased at the gallant turn he had given to this affair ; but the obliged person was so much overwhelm’d with the sense she

had of such an unexpected act of generosity, that she was able to express her gratitude only in broken and disjointed phrases, — which notwithstanding mr. Lovegrove would not suffer her to go on with ; but ask'd her in what manner she now intended to prosecute her journey.

She reply'd, that as there was no wheel-carriage to be procured in that village, she had thoughts of taking a man and horse to conduct her as far as Reading, where she was informed she might be sure of being better accommodated.

Though mr. Lovegrove had no other view in this question than merely to turn the discourse, it proved a very fortunate one for the young traveller ;— on hearing the answer she made, — ‘ You need
 • not, said lady Speck, be at the pains
 • or expence of hiring a man and horse,
 • as we have enough of both standing
 • idle ;—I doubt not but the woman of
 • the house will readily provide a pillion,
 • and you may ride behind one of my
 • servants.’

This offer being too convenient, as well as obliging, not to be joyfully accepted, the lady immediately called for one of her servants and gave him orders

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to do as she had said; adding withal, that when they came to Reading he should use his endeavours to assist the young lady he carried in getting a post-chaise for her to pursue her journey.

A very little time served for the execution of this command; and after the most becoming retributions on the one side, and sincere good wishes on the other, the fair stranger took her leave of a company among whom she had been so providentially thrown in a time of such distress.

Jenny, who had her head and heart a good deal taken up with what had passed, followed her down stairs, and making her step into a little room where they could not be overheard, surprised her with these words :

‘ I cannot express, said she, with the
‘ greatest sweetness in her voice and looks,
‘ how deeply I have been touched with
‘ your misfortunes, nor how much a-
‘ shamed I am of the slender contribution
‘ made for their relief; — Lady Speck is
‘ very good, and I never was more a-
‘ mazed than to hear her mention so
‘ pitiful a sum as two guineas a peice;
‘ but as it was agreed to by her sister I
‘ could

‘ could not well oppose it without giving
 ‘ offence; — I shall however never be
 ‘ able to remember this affair without
 ‘ blushing if you do not allow me to
 ‘ make up some part of the deficiency.’

She accompanied the latter part of this speech with a present of five guineas, which the other shewed a very great unwillingness to accept, — saying she was already overloaded with favours, and what she had received was more than sufficient for all the purposes she wanted; but Jenny told her that she knew not what accidents might happen to a person at such a distance from her friends, and in fine forced her to take it, — then, after giving her a most cordial embrace, left her and return’d to the company, without taking any notice of the occasion of her leaving them.

She found them animadverting on this adventure, which doubtless had something pretty extraordinary in it; — lady Speck was just saying how lucky a thing it was for the young stranger that she happen’d to come into the same inn where they were. — ‘ It was so, indeed,’
 ‘ madam, reply’d Jenny, and I think
 ‘ no less fortunate for us also, as the sight
 ‘ of her distress has given us an opportunity

‘ tunity of doing what every one ought
‘ to rejoice in having the power to do.’

‘ Nothing can be more just, madam,
‘ than this reflection of yours, said Mr.
‘ Lovegrove; but I am sorry to have
‘ observ’d, that there are too many who
‘ have greatly the power without being
‘ blest with the will to do the least good
‘ office : others again, who though of a
‘ more beneficent disposition confine their
‘ bounties within the narrow compass of
‘ their own acquaintance. — Distress is
‘ not distress with them, unless the person
‘ who labours under it be known to them,
‘ forgetting that all mankind are but
‘ one great family, descended originally
‘ from the same parents ; that every in-
‘ dividual is a branch from the same
‘ stock, and consequently have a kindred
‘ right to the protection of each other.

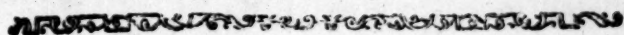
‘ I was an ear witness not long ago,
‘ continued he, of a very severe, as well
‘ as genteel reprimand given to a peer
‘ of the first rank by a person in great
‘ distress, who had petitioned his lord-
‘ ship for relief, and to whom he sent
‘ for answer,—That he knew nothing of
‘ him, and that he never gave any thing
‘ to strangers ;—on this the unfortunate
‘ person reply’d to him that deliver’d the
‘ message,

‘ message, — then tell your lord that he
‘ will never relieve an angel.’

This worthy gentleman would perhaps have farther expatiated on the beauties of a mind extensively benevolent, if he had not been interrupted by Landy, who came up to acquaint them the necessary repairs of the coach were now entirely finish’d ;—on hearing this, as there were yet some hours of day-light, they all agreed to go to Maidenhead that night, not only because they were sure of meeting with better accommodation than they had found here, but also for the sake of being so much the farther on their journey.

Every thing being got ready with all imaginable expedition, they departed from that village, where lady Speck left orders that the servant who had been sent to conduct the young stranger should refresh himself there that night, and follow them early the next morning to Maidenhead.





C H A P. XV.

Cannot fail of giving a very agreeable sensation to every honest and good-natured reader.

MISS Wingman, who besides the natural affection she had for a mother who tenderly loved her, had always been bred in the strictest principles of duty and obedience to her, could not keep herself from being a little uneasy at the delay that had happen'd in their journey fearing that indulgent parent might be under some apprehensions of her being detained by a worse accident than the real one, a day longer than she expected.

To relieve her as soon as possible, however, from the anxieties she might be under on this score, she made Landy, instead of stopping with them at Maidenhead, proceed directly, and with all the speed he could, towards London; — the honest steward, knowing his old lady's temper, was glad to be charged with this commission, assured the young one, that as far as the day was advanced, he doubted not but he should be able to

reach Windsor that night, and from thence, setting out early the next morning, carry lady Wingman the joyful news of their approach several hours before the coach could possibly arrive.

This filial observance, in a young lady of miss Wingman's gay and volatile disposition, appear'd extremely amiable in the eyes both of Jenny and mr. Lovegrove; but I will not trouble the reader with any repetition of the many compliments they made to her upon this occasion, things of much greater moment requiring to be discuss'd.

Nothing worthy of obtaining a place in this history happening at present, I shall only say they all came to Maidenhead perfectly well pleased with the change of their quarters, and that mr. Lovegrove, to whose direction every thing was left, took care they should be made full amends that evening for the bad entertainment of the preceding one.

The servant who had been sent to attend the fair fugitive return'd, according to the orders he had received, very early in the morning, and brought an account that he had been so fortunate as to procure a handsome post-chaise for her,

her, which was to carry her quite to Bristol.

Mr. Lovegrove, Jenny, and miss Wingman were all up and dress'd,—all the equipage was ready; but lady Speck, who loved to travel at her ease, not rising before her usual hour, they did not set out so soon as some of the company, her sister in particular, were impatient to do.

Notwithstanding this, the high metal of the horses and skill of the conductor brought them to London pretty early in the afternoon; — lady Speck, who thought herself under an indispensable duty of waiting on her mother before she went home, prevail'd on Jenny and mr. Lovegrove to accompany them, so the coachman was order'd to drive directly thither..

It cannot be doubted but that the good old lady received her two daughters with all the demonstrations of affection imaginable, and those they brought with them with the greatest complaisance; but after the first salutations were over,— ‘I am
‘ sorry, said she, turning to lady Speck,
‘ that what I wrote to Kitty has made
‘ you and miss Jessamy quit the pleasures

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‘ of Bath so much sooner than I believe
‘ either of you intended.’

‘ I am sorry, madam, reply’d she, for
‘ the occasion of your ladyship’s writing
‘ in that manner.’--‘ So am not I, madam,’
cried a voice well known to all that were
present, and immediately lord Huntley,
follow’d by sir Thomas Welby, rush’d
from an inner room, where they had
withdrawn on the ladies coming up.—
‘ The late cloud, continued lord Huntley,
‘ cast upon my honour, I hope will only
‘ serve to render it more bright in the
‘ eyes of those to whom I most desire it
‘ should be conspicuous.’

He then paid his compliments to each
of the ladies one after another, who were
all of them so astonish’d at the sight of
him, that they had not the power of utter-
ing one word ;—this scene, in effect, was
so pleasant, that sir Thomas Welby laugh’d
till his sides shook, and lady Wingman
herself, in spite of her gravity, could not
forbear smiling.

As lord Huntley advanced to embrace
mr. Lovegrove, — ‘ I congratulate you,
‘ my dear lord, said that gentleman,—I
‘ congratulate you, since there needs no
‘ other proof than seeing your lordship
‘ here

‘ here to assure me that your innocence
‘ is fully clear’d.

‘ Ay, ay, cried sir Thomas Welby,—
‘ all this bustle has happen’d through
‘ my foolish mistake; and I am glad,
‘ that besides my fair charge and her
‘ mother, here are so many witnesses of
‘ my acknowledging it.’

‘ Sir Thomas, reply’d lord Huntley,
‘ you have so well attoned for represent-
‘ ing me more unworthy than I really
‘ am, or can be, by the promise you have
‘ given me of using your interest to make
‘ me more happy than I can ever deserve
‘ to be, that I have reason to bless an
‘ error so propitious to my hopes.’

‘ The event, I perceive, has prov’d
‘ fortunate enough, said lady Speck; but
‘ methinks I should be glad to know how
‘ it came about to be so, and by what
‘ means sir Thomas was so strangely de-
‘ ceiv’d.’

‘ Strangely indeed, madam, answer’d
‘ he;—I am ashamed to think of it;—
‘ but have a little patience, and you shall
‘ be fully acquainted with all the par-
‘ ticulars of this very foolish affair;— it
‘ is a penance I have enjoin’d myself

‘ for my weakness in so rashly giving
‘ credit to appearances.’

The company now seated themselves, which before they had not done, and sir Thomas, on seeing the three young ladies and mr. Lovegrove prepar’d to give their attention to what he had to deliver, began the recital he had promised in these or the like words :

“ Happening to call, said he, at the
“ house of an honest tradesman with
“ whom I have been long acquainted, I
“ was a little surpris’d, on passing through
“ his shop, to hear a person who came in
“ just after me enquire if lord Huntley
“ or his lady were at home.

“ I staid not to hear what answer
“ was given to the man, but went directly
“ to my friend, who I saw sitting in his
“ counting-house ;— the first question I
“ asked him was,—what lodgers he had
“ in his house ;—to which he reply’d,—
“ that at present he had the honour of
“ having lord and lady Huntley, of the
“ kingdom of Ireland ; but should not
“ long be so happy, for they had taken
“ a great house in the new buildings,
“ and only waited till their furnitture,
“ which

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“ which was on the road from West-
“ Chester, should arrive.

“ The consternation I was in made
“ me put a great many interrogatories
“ to him, some of which I believe were
“ impertinent enough, but he had the
“ good manners, however, to answer
“ succinctly to every thing I ask’d,
“ according to the best of his knowledge:
“ — he told me that lord Huntley had
“ been in England some time before his
“ lady, — that he had staid but two
“ nights with her in these lodgings before
“ he went out of town, and would not
“ return till his house should be quite
“ completed, and fit for his reception,
“ leaving the care of every thing to her
“ ladyship and the steward.

“ He also added, that hearing they
“ intended to furnish one apartment
“ entirely new, he had recommended an
“ upholsterer and cabinet-maker to them
“ for that purpose, and hoped he should
“ have an opportunity of obliging several
“ others of his friends and neighbours
“ by helping them to the custom of this
“ noble Lord.

“ As he is of a very communicative
“ disposition he run on, of his own
“ accord,

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“ accord, with several other particulars ;
 “ to which, indeed, I did not give much
 “ attention, thinking myself thoroughly
 “ convinced in the main point,—that of
 “ lord Huntley’s being a married man.

“ But notwithstanding all he said
 “ served to corroborate that belief in
 “ me, I was willing to be still more con-
 “ firm’d, which I thought I might be
 “ by seeing and speaking to the lady
 “ herself.

“ Accordingly I told my friend, that
 “ I was well acquainted with lord Hunt-
 “ ley, though I had not till now heard
 “ of his marriage ; but that since it was
 “ so, and the thing seem’d to be no
 “ secret, I should be glad to pay my
 “ compliments to her ladyship on that
 “ occasion.

“ To this he reply’d, that she was the
 “ best humour’d woman in the world,
 “ and he was sure would take it very
 “ kindly : — ‘ Yonder is the steward,
 “ cried he, I will let him know your in-
 “ tention ; ’—“ in speaking these words,
 “ and without waiting to hear what I
 “ would say, he beckon’d to a person
 “ who was that moment coming into
 “ the house ;—presently the worst coun-
 “ tenancel

“ tenanted man I ever saw, —but who,
“ on my signifying to him my desire of
“ waiting on lady Huntley, answer’d
“ with a great deal of civility, that he
“ would see if her ladyship was at leisure
“ to receive the honour of my visit.

“ I forgot to send up my name,
“ which blunder occasion’d him to come
“ down again on purpose to ask it ;— I
“ made no scruple to inform him who I
“ was, with this addition of being one
“ of lord Huntley’s friends ; — he went
“ up again, but staid much longer
“ above the second time than he had
“ done the first ;— at last, however, he
“ return’d with leave for my admission.

“ I follow’d my conductor, who in-
“ troduced me to the presence of a very
“ lovely woman indeed, though she had
“ somewhat of a down-cast look in her
“ eyes, which, as well as a good deal of
“ hesitation in her voice in receiving me,
“ I at that time imputed to her modesty,
“ on finding herself accosted by a stranger,
“ but have since found more proper
“ causes to ascribe it to,—those of guilt
“ and fear.

“ When the first compliments were
“ past, I took the liberty of asking her
“ to

“ to what part of the country my lord was;
 “ retired; — she seem’d in more con-
 “ fusion than before at this question,
 “ which then gave me some surprize;
 “ but on reflecting afterwards upon it, I
 “ easily found it had proceeded from her
 “ want of being prepared with an answer;
 “ I was, however, so inconsiderate as to
 “ furnish her with one, by mentioning
 “ Bath; — on which she presently cried
 “ out, — ‘ Yes, sir, my lord is gone to
 “ Bath with some persons of quality, his
 “ relations.’

“ Having satisfied my curiosity with
 “ the sight of this fine lady, I took a
 “ pretty hasty leave of her, and went
 “ directly to lady Wingman, to whom
 “ I was impatient to communicate the
 “ discovery which I thought had been
 “ so providentially thrown in my way.

“ Her ladyship, as may easily be sup-
 “ posed, was both amazed and troubled;
 “ but the result of our conversation was
 “ to write immediately to miss Wing-
 “ man, and apprise her of the danger
 “ we imagined she was in from the ad-
 “ dresses of a married man; — my lady
 “ would needs send Landy with these
 “ dispatches, in order to enforce the
 “ contents

“ contents, and to conduct her daughter
“ up to London.

“ I need not tell you the satisfaction
“ miss Wingman’s letter gave us ;—her
“ ladyship was now perfectly easy, and I
“ gave myself no farther pains to enquire
“ after lord and lady Huntley ;—happen-
“ ing, however, to meet my friend one
“ day by accident, he told me that his
“ lordship was expected in town every
“ hour, and that all was ready for their
“ going into their house, — so that he
“ should soon lose his lodgers.

“ Things were in this position when I
“ was told one morning, soon after I
“ was out of bed, that lord Huntley
“ and a gentleman he had brought with
“ him were below and desired to speak
“ with me ; — I think I was not more
“ astonish’d on hearing he was married,
“ than I was at his making me a visit ;
“ —I ran down notwithstanding to re-
“ ceive him ; but more hastened by the
“ perplexity I was in than by any respect
“ I had for him at that time.’

‘ Indeed, my lord, continued sir
‘ Thomas, addressing himself to lord
‘ Huntley, I can never too much admire
‘ your lordship’s moderation in behaving
‘ towards

‘ towards me as you did, after knowing
 ‘ what I had wrote concerning you to
 ‘ miss Wingman.’ — ‘ Oh, sir Thomas,
 ‘ reply’d that nobleman, I reserved all
 ‘ my fire for those who I supposed had
 ‘ traduced me to you, and created me
 ‘ an enemy out of my best friend.’

Sir Thomas was about to make some return to what lord Huntley had said; but the ladies cried out,—that they were impatient for the catastrophe of this adventure, and desired he would give a truce to compliments and pursue the thread of his discourse; — on which he told them, they should be obey’d, and went on thus :

“ What I have farther to relate, said
 “ he, will be contained in a very short
 “ compass ;—my lord and I soon came
 “ to an eclaircissement,—his lordship re-
 “ peated to me the heads of my letter
 “ to miss Wingman, and I gave him a
 “ faithful account of the reasons on
 “ which my accusation was founded ;—
 “ he requested me to use my endeavours
 “ to shew him the villain that had usurp’d
 “ his name ; I readily complied, and
 “ attended his lordship and his friend,
 “ who I afterwards found was sir Robert
 “ Manley,

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“ Manley, to the house where the sup-
“ posed lord Huntley and his lady lodg’d.

“ My honest friend was luckily at
“ home, but on my desiring to speak
“ with lord or lady Huntley, he told me
“ they had left him two days before and
“ were gone to their new house ; — on
“ which I ask’d him if he knew lord
“ Huntley when he saw him : — ‘ Yes
“ certainly, reply’d he, somewhat sur-
“ prised at the question ; ’ — “ Am I the
“ person, cried lord Huntley, stepping
“ forward, that lodged with you and
“ bore the name of lord Huntley ? ” —
“ No, sir, answer’d he, nor has he any
“ thing of your resemblance. ’ — “ Then
“ said I, you have been imposed upon,
“ — ’tis well if not cheated too ; for I
“ assure you this is the real lord Huntley,
“ and him you have had with you must
“ be an impostor.

“ Never was horror and amazement
“ more strongly painted than in the face
“ of this poor tradesman : — ‘ Then I am
“ undone, cried he, I do not mean for
“ what I shall lose myself, though it is
“ no trifle, but I have drawn in several
“ of my friends to give them credit. ’ —
“ He then proceeded to inform us that
“ they had taken up plate, — jewels, —
“ household

“ household furniture, and wearing ap-
 “ parel to a considerable amount, and
 “ all through his recommendation ;—we
 “ pitied his distress, — comforted him
 “ the best we could, and told him that
 “ as the affair was so recent, it was to
 “ be hoped their things might be re-
 “ cover’d

“ Lord Huntley’s honour was now
 “ fully clear’d, but he could not be
 “ content without condign punishment
 “ being inflicted on the villain who had
 “ assum’d his name and character for
 “ purposes so infamous and base ; — the
 “ defrauded tradesmen were all sent for
 “ on this occasion, and as it could not
 “ be imagined that the pretended lord
 “ Huntley would either stay long in this
 “ town, or venture to appear to any
 “ stranger while in it, the best expedient
 “ that offer’d was to get a search-warrant
 “ to force open the doors of his new
 “ habitation ; by which means he would
 “ not only be apprehended, but also such
 “ part of the goods he had taken up,
 “ which were not yet embezzled, might
 “ be restored to the proper owners.

“ A warrant was easily obtain’d on
 “ the oath of the several tradesmen, who
 “ all went with lord Huntley, sir Robert
 “ Manley

“ Manley, and myself, to see it put in
 “ execution by the officers of justice ; but,
 “ to our great disappointment, the impostor
 “ was flown with the whole gang be-
 “ longing to him, both male and female :
 “ —upon enquiry among the neighbours
 “ we found they had been there but one
 “ night, which time it may be supposed
 “ they had spent in packing up and
 “ carrying off what goods had been brought
 “ in ; the house indeed, is conveniently
 “ situated for such a purpose, there being
 “ a back door through the stables into
 “ another street.”

Here sir Thomas Welby ended his
 little narrative, what was said upon it
 will be part of the subject of the succeed-
 ing chapter.



C H A P. XVI.

Treats of more things than one.

AFTER thanking sir Thomas Welby
 for the trouble he had given him-
 self in satisfying their curiosity, and con-
 gratulating lord Huntley on the ease he
 had found in removing the aspersions cast
 upon him, this amiable company began
 to

to enquire what methods had been taken to find out where the impostor and his associates had concealed themselves, in order that they might be brought to justice.

Lord Huntley reply'd, that nothing had been left undone for that purpose ;— that not only all the suspected places in London had been search'd, but also letters sent to all those ports in the kingdom which open'd either towards France, Holland or Ireland, with a description of their persons, and affidavits of the frauds they had been guilty of ; but that all this had been of no effect, so that those wretches, if they took any of these routes, must have escaped before the intelligence arrived.

‘ I cannot but confess, said mr. Lovegrove, that the impostor shew'd a good deal of address in the management of this affair ; for as he had assumed the character of a nobleman whose person he must needs believe was well known, he took care not to be seen by any one but the master of the house where the scene of his villainy was to be transacted, and even by him but just enough to give him room to say he had such a one for his lodger.’

‘ It

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‘ It certainly requires abundance both
‘ of courage and policy to form a com-
‘ pleat villain, said lady Wingman ; and
‘ I have often wonder’d that men endued
‘ with such great talents should not rather
‘ employ them for ends more laudable,
‘ as well as more safe for themselves.’

‘ All good qualities, madam, reply’d
‘ mr. Lovegrove, lose their very nature
‘ when accompanied with a vicious dis-
‘ position ; — some men are born with
‘ such an unhappy propensity, — such an
‘ innate love of wickedness, that they
‘ will do nothing at all unless they can
‘ do mischief ; — it is in that alone they
‘ are capable of exerting the talents they
‘ are possessed of ; — nothing is more fre-
‘ quent than for a lawyer, who might
‘ make a very good figure in a just
‘ cause, to chuse to engage himself only
‘ in those which require chicanery and
‘ artifice ; nor for a soldier drummed out
‘ of his regiment for cowardice, to be-
‘ come a most bold and hardened villain
‘ in robbing on the highway.’

‘ Yet there is a way to correct this
‘ propensity you talk of, cried lady Speck,
‘ otherwise vice would rather be a mis-
‘ fortune

‘ fortune than a fault, and consequently
 ‘ deserve less blame than pity.’

‘ Doubtless, madam, answer’d mr.
 ‘ Lovegrove ; but it must be done in the
 ‘ most early years of life, and requires
 ‘ more pains than either tutor or pupil
 ‘ are sometimes inclined to take.

This gentleman would perhaps have gone on with some discourse concerning the mistakes of education, and the little care that is too generally taken in giving a right bent to the minds of youth, which might have been of very great service to many of my readers, if it had not been prevented by the sudden entrance of sir Robert Manley, on which the conversation immediately turn’d on other subjects.

The trusty Landy, according to his promise, having reach’d London pretty early that morning, lady Wingman took it into her head to surprise her daughters with the sight of lord Huntley in a place where they could so little expect to find him ; and willing also that their common friends should be witnesses of this meeting, made an invitation at the same time to sir Thomas Welby and sir Robert Manley ; but the latter of these gentlemen not being at home when the message was deliver’d,

deliver'd heard not of it till some hours afterwards, which was the cause that he came not with the others.

Welcomes,—congratulations, and all the compliments befitting the present occasion were now renew'd ; after which,
'—What I have lost, said sir Robert Manley, by not being here before, will I hope be made up to the company by the intelligence I bring. — You know, my lord, continued he turning to lord Huntley, that we met Celandine in the Park yesterday.'

'Yes, reply'd that nobleman laughing, he was all alert and gay, talking to some ladies, when we met him ; but I shall never forget how his countenance changed on perceiving us, and how silly and sheepish he look'd as we pass'd by him.'

'The secret of his doing so, resumed sir Robert, is easy to guess ;—the sight of us two doubtless made him imagine that the terrible mr. Lovegrove was also in town ; for I have just now heard that he has pack'd up all his fardles of fopperies, and is gone this very morning to make a second tour, and display
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‘ them to the best advantage he can
 ‘ among his brethren, the petit-maitres.’

‘ What! gone to Paris! cried mr. Love-
 ‘ grove:—Aye verily, reply’d the other,
 ‘ his diamond tassel now ceases to sparkle
 ‘ in St. James’s sun, and his musk and
 ‘ amber to perfume the Mall; — your
 ‘ dreadful idea has driven hence the hero
 ‘ of the mode.’

To the great grief of many a charming
 toast,
 Who sighs and mourns her dear Pulvilio
 lost.

‘ Fye upon you, sir Robert, said miss
 ‘ Wingman, giving him a slap over the
 ‘ shoulder with her fan, — I cannot have
 ‘ so mean an opinion of my sex as to be-
 ‘ lieve that there is even one woman in
 ‘ the world that will regret the absence
 ‘ of such a coxcomb.’

‘ Yes, sister, rejoin’d lady Speck, just as
 ‘ one would regret the loss of a squirrel or
 ‘ a monkey who has diverted one with its
 ‘ tricks; for I dare answer no woman
 ‘ ever consider’d him in any other light.’

‘ Perhaps not, madam, said lord Hunt-
 ‘ ley; but as the animals you mention
 ‘ are

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'are sometimes very mischievous, so
'there may be danger in encouraging
'the follies of Celandine, which every
'one is not aware of ;—there is a certain
'young lady in this town, by some cried
'up for one of the greatest beauties in it,
'who has received a wound in her reputa-
'tion which will not easily be healed, on
'account of her acquaintance with him.'

'I know who your lordship means,
'cried Jenny, who was always ready to
'take part with the absent ; — but dare
'believe that whoever censures her of
'having the least tendre for that un-
'worthy trifler does her a great deal of
'injustice ; — it is true he has had the
'impudence and vanity to follow her to
'all public places, and even to take some
'liberties in company, which her excess
'of good nature kept her from resenting
'so much as perhaps she ought to have
'done ; yet, in spite of these appearances,
'I think I may be pretty positive that
'she heartily hates and despises him.'

Mr. Lovegrove, who in all probability
had more concern in this discourse than
any one of the company except lady
Speck, join'd not in it, but affected to
be wholly unattentive during the time
lasted, and seem'd taken up with admit

172 *The HISTORY of*
ring a fine gold headed cane sir Thomas
Welby had in his hand.

The good baronet, who had all this while been silent, as knowing nothing either of Celandine or the lady mention'd by lord Huntley, could not now, on hearing what Jenny said, forbear testifying his admiration of her generosity in expressions no less polite than they were sincere.

‘It is no new thing, sir Thomas, said
‘mr. Lovegrove, to hear miss Jessamy
‘plead the cause of the accused :—strong
‘as was the indictment laid against lord
‘Huntley in your letter, I can assure you,
‘it lost half its force by the arguments
‘which this fair advocate urg’d in oppo-
‘sition to it ;—scarce could the supposed
‘criminal himself have defended his in-
‘nocence with more zeal, or in terms
‘more pathetic and efficacious.’

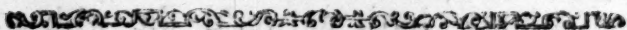
It cannot be doubted but that lord Huntley made the most grateful acknowledgements to that young lady, on being told the part she had taken in his justification. — ‘But how, madam, said he to
‘her, did my charming judge receive the
‘pleas you were so good to offer in my
‘behalf?’

‘Oh

‘ Oh, my lord, answer’d she with a smile, this is not a fair question ; — a barrister you know never pretends to dive into the sentiments of the court.’ — He then was about to address something to miss Wingman, who seem’d in a good deal of confusion at this discourse ; but her blushes were instantly reliev’d by the butler coming in to tell lady Wingman that supper was on the table ; on which they all adjourn’d into the next room, and sat down to partake of a very elegant collation which that lady had prepar’d for their entertainment.

What pass’d during the time of eating would be superfluous to repeat ; so I shall only say, that soon after the cloth was taken away, lady Speck, knowing her mother went early to bed, made a motion to retire, and by, doing so engaged the company to break up to the no small satisfaction of Jenny, who was impatient to get home for reasons which will presently appear.





C H A P. XVII.

Affords fresh matter to employ the speculation of every curious reader.

BY Jemmy's letter from Ham-Hall, Jenny found that the time which he proposed to continue there was elapsed, and therefore doubting not but that he was now in town, sent her servant the minute she came home to acquaint him with her arrival; but she was a good deal surpris'd when the return of the messenger informed her that after staying but two nights in London he had set out the very day before for Bath.

The gall of this disappointment had an equal portion of sweetness mingled with it; — if she was vex'd at not being able to see him so soon as she had expected, she was no less pleas'd on the haste he had made to go to Bath, as she knew he could have no reason to imagine she as yet had left that place.

This being a new proof of the sincerity of his affection towards herself, very much abated her impatience to reproach him

him with the less honourable addresses he had made elsewhere ; and she sometimes even doubted within herself whether she ought ever to give him any shock upon that score.

When the suspicion of an enormous injury is once removed, all lesser ones decrease in magnitude, and seem less deserving our resentment than they really are ;—Jenny believing her lover innocent, as to the main point, began now to think little of any thing else he might be guilty of.

The good humour she was in at present with him render'd her mind quite compos'd ; but the time was not yet arriv'd when she was to remain in any settled state of tranquility ;—a letter was brought to her by a person who refused to say either from whom or from whence he came ;—it contained these lines :

To miss JESSAMY.

“ MADAM,

“ **T**HE high character I have heard
 “ of your good nature and com-
 “ plaisance, makes me not doubt but
 “ you are endow'd with an equal share
 “ of justice and generosity, especially
 I 4 “ when

“ when those noble virtues are to be exerted
 “ in favour of a person of your own sex ;
 “ and in that confidence take the liberty
 “ of intreating you will set me right
 “ in an affair on which the whole happiness
 “ of my life depends, and which
 “ none but yourself can clear up from
 “ its present ambiguity.

“ I have for a considerable time received
 “ the most passionate addresses
 “ of a gentleman who I very well know
 “ the world once look’d upon as destin’d
 “ to be yours ;—he has gain’d my friends
 “ consent, and, by his merits and assid-
 “ uities, so great an ascendant over me,
 “ that nothing hitherto has hinder’d me
 “ from accepting his hand but the fears
 “ that in doing so I should be accessary
 “ to his being guilty of an irreparable
 “ injury to you.

“ After this it may perhaps be needless
 “ to tell you that I mean mr. Jessamy ;
 “ but as my circumstances require a plain
 “ and categorical answer from you on
 “ this head, it behoves me to express
 “ myself in terms which will admit no
 “ room to doubt their meaning ;— it is
 “ indeed, madam, no other than he whom
 “ I love, and by whom I am equally
 “ beloved, and who, while he confesses

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“ a former engagement with you, protests at the same time, and with the same seeming sincerity at least, that it is now entirely broken off, and that he is at full liberty to dispose of his person where he has given his heart.

“ But I have been told, by people more experienced than myself, that men will say and swear any thing to gain their point ; I dare therefore depend on nothing but an assurance from yourself of the reality of his professions ; —tell me, I beseech you, how far the intended union between you is dissolv’d, and whether I may be his without a crime ;—pity a rival who would rather die than invade your property, if once convinced he is so ; —ease a suspense which has something in it more distracting, — more cruel, than all that could be inflicted by the last despair on her, who is,

“ With the greatest respect,

“ Madam,

“ Your most obedient,

“ Though unknown servant.”

P. S. “ I beg an immediate answer,
 “ because I have promised to give mine
 “ to mr. Jeffamy on his return from
 “ Bath, and should be glad to know
 “ before he comes in what manner I
 “ ought to square my conduct towards
 “ him.”

On the first reading this letter, new alarms, new doubts, new jealousies, instantly fill'd the head and heart of Jenny; but on a second perusal there seem'd to her something too romantic in the expression, as well as purport of it, for her to believe it founded upon real fact; and she began to fancy it was either intended by her enemies as an insult, or by her friends as a jest;—resolving therefore, that from which quarter soever it came, neither of them should have any room to laugh at her behaviour on the occasion, she took a small piece of paper and wrote in it the following words :

“ If I were really possess'd of all the
 “ good qualities ascrib'd to me in the
 “ letter before me, I know none of them
 “ that would oblige me to send any
 “ answer to an anonymous epistle;—
 “ when the lady who wrote it thinks
 “ proper to reveal herself she may de-
 “ pend

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“pend on the satisfaction she desires ; in
“the mean time she is at liberty to form,
“what conjectures she pleases, and to
“be directed by them which appear to
“her to have the greatest probability of
“being right.”

This, without either seal or direction, and only folded in a careless manner, she gave to the messenger who had brought the letter, and bid him carry it to those that sent him.

She set herself down again in order to re-examine the contents of this extraordinary epistle ; but the more she did so the less able was she to conceive either the real intention of it, or from what hand it came.

After forming, and as often rejecting a thousand different conjectures, it at last came into her head, that the woman to whom Jemmy had wrote that letter, which she received at Bath by mistake, had contrived this stratagem to create a dissention between them.

“I have heard, said she to herself, that
“women of the vile profession I suppose
“her of, value themselves upon these
“kind of artifices, and take a pride in
“the

‘ the mischief they sometimes occasion ;
‘ —but certainly, continued she, those
‘ on whom such little tricks have any
‘ effect must have a very small share of
‘ understanding : — Jemmy, however,
‘ added she after a pause, will see by this
‘ the scandal and danger of entering into
‘ any sort of intimacy with such abandon’d creatures.’

But though it must be acknowledged that there was the appearance of a good deal of reason to confirm her in this last opinion, yet I believe the sagacious reader, by what has been the business of several chapters in the first volume of this work, will easily guess that the letter in question was only an addition to the former attempts made by the invidious Belpine to dissolve that cement of affection which had so long united the hearts of our two lovers.

It was indeed no other than that base man, who knowing she was in town, by having accidentally met her footman in the morning, had taken this method of corroborating the many others which he before had put in practice.

He waited at a coffee-house in the neighbourhood to see what return Jenny would

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would make by his emissary, which finding not so satisfactory as he wish'd, he went directly to visit her, hoping that by her countenance and behaviour, immediately after the receipt of this letter, he should be able to discover, more than by her answer to it, what effect it had wrought upon her.

It has been already observed that Jemmy had inspired her with the best opinion of this treacherous friend, so she no sooner heard he was below than she ordered he should be introduced, and received him with that sweetness and affability with which she always treated those whom she thought deserving of it.

What company was at Bath, — who made the most brilliant appearance there, — who won, and who lost at play, with other such like matters, employed the first moments of their conversation; but Belpine, desirous of turning it on something more applicable to his purpose, gave over speaking on these subjects as soon as he could do so without abruptness.

‘ Mr. Jessamy must certainly be very
‘ unhappy, madam, said he, on finding
‘ you had quitted Bath before his arrival
‘ there.’

‘ there.’ — ‘ He deserves little pity on
 ‘ that score, reply’d Jenny ; — you men
 ‘ can always find ways to divert your-
 ‘ selves ;—few of you regret the absence
 ‘ of an old friend, when you have so
 ‘ many opportunities of engaging new
 ‘ ones.’

Though she spoke these words with a very gay air, yet there was a certain keenness in her looks at the same time which persuaded this watchful observer that his plot had not entirely failed of the success he aimed at.

‘ I do not pretend, madam, resum’d
 ‘ he, to dive into the sentiments of mr.
 ‘ Jeffamy ; but I am very sure that if
 ‘ you were free and at liberty to be
 ‘ adored, there are men in the world,
 ‘ who would think no joy equal to that
 ‘ of gazing on you, and of repeating
 ‘ every day,—every hour,—nay, every
 ‘ minute, the influence of your charms.’

‘ It is possible indeed, answer’d she,
 ‘ that there may be some who would
 ‘ endeavour to make me believe so, and
 ‘ that might even be vain enough to
 ‘ imagine I was pleased with what they
 ‘ said ;—it is therefore very fortunate for
 ‘ me that I was disposed on by my pa-
 ‘ rents

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‘rents before I arrived at an age to be
‘tiaz’d with such impertinencies.’

‘It is strange how you have escaped
‘them; however, madam, said he, your
‘marriage with mr. Jessamy being so
‘long delay’d might reasonably tempt
‘those who wish it so to flatter them-
‘selves with a belief that it never will
‘be accomplish’d, and that there was
‘somewhat of a disinclination either on
‘the one side or the other.’

These words made her not doubt but
that the report she had heard so much of
concerning Jemmy’s inconstancy had also
reach’d his ears, and she would certainly
have been instigated, if not by female
curiosity, by love or jealousy, to enter
into some discourse with him on that
head, if the intimacy between them had
not restrain’d her, as she thought he
would not betray to her the secret of his
friend, in case he were intrusted with it.

What he said however bringing fresh to
her memory the vexation she had lately un-
dergone on this account, her countenance
went through several changes in the space
of half a minute,--‘Whoever should think
‘in the manner you mention, reply’d
‘she, would discover a great want of
‘judgment,

‘ judgment;—a conjecture of this nature
‘ could be justified only by the behaviour
‘ of one or the other of us, and I be-
‘ lieve it has been such on both sides as
‘ to give no room for suspicion that
‘ either of us regreted the agreement
‘ made between our parents.’

A lady to whom Jenny had sent a card that morning, to give notice of her being in town, that same instant coming in prevented Belpine from making any answer, and he took his leave soon after, having discovered by this visit that his artifices had given her some uneasiness, but less resentment than was necessary for the success of his design.



C H A P. XVIII.

Is dull enough to please those who take an ill-natur'd delight in finding something to condemn ; yet is not without occurrences which will keep awake the attention of such who read with a desire of being agreeably amused.

THE lady who came to visit Jenny was extremely good humour'd, but a little too talkative ; — she never exceeded the bounds of truth in any thing she said, but gave herself not the trouble of considering how far the truths she utter'd were proper to be reveal

I have observ'd that people of this temper frequently do as much mischief, without designing it, as those of the most malicious intentions are capable of ; and though sincerity be among the number of the most valuable virtues, yet there are many circumstances wherein to speak all one knows may produce as bad consequences as to speak more than one knows.

I never

I never happen into the company of either man or woman of this stamp but I have fresh in my memory some lines I formerly read in Browne's works.

Those babbling ecchos of whate'er they
hear,
Fame's menial servants, who her tidings
bear,
Sow such diffention, kindle such debate,
As turns all sweet to sour, all love
to hate.

But to return to my subject ;—Belpine had no sooner left the two ladies together than Jenny's friend began to express some wonder at seeing her in town so much before the time she was expected : —
' What, cried she, is there any disagreement between you and mr. Jeffamy ?

' No, not any, reply'd Jenny, a little
' startled at the question ; but wherefore
' do you ask ?' — ' Nay, resumed the
' other, it was only a foolish imagination
' of my own ; — not but I had some
' reason for it too :—you must know that
' I thought you had been told something
' of him that had made you angry —
' and so when you heard he was coming
' down

down to Bath you immediately flounced
up to London.'

'All a mistake upon my word, said
Jenny; the ladies I was with had some
business in town, and my unwillingness
to be left behind was the sole cause of
my returning to London so soon. —
But pray what put such a thing into
your head?'

'I did not think to tell you, answer'd
this fair gossip; but since you press me,
—though I am afraid it will vex you,
—yet I think too you ought to know
it;—and if you will promise me not to
fret I will let you into the whole secret.'

Jenny then said that she should listen
without pain to any thing she had to re-
late; and gave her many more assurances
of her philosophy in this point than she
had occasion to do, as the other was no
less impatient to disburthen herself of the
secret than she was to be made a sharer in
it.

'Well, — men will be men, said the
lady; — there is no such a thing as
changing nature;—but sure I made the
discovery I am going to tell you by
the

‘ the oddest accident that ever was ;—I
 ‘ suppose you know mrs. Comode, the
 ‘ habit-maker.’—‘ No, replied Jenny, but
 ‘ I have heard of her.’

‘ I buy all my things of her, resumed
 ‘ the other, she has vast business, and I
 ‘ think the genteelest fancy of any woman
 ‘ of her profession about town ; every
 ‘ thing she makes up sets with such an
 ‘ air ; you must know I had bespoke a
 ‘ fly petticoat with fringes of her ;—it
 ‘ not being sent home according to the
 ‘ time she promised, I called in one
 ‘ morning as I passed that way to see if
 ‘ it was done ;—she made a thousand
 ‘ apologies, and said I should have it that
 ‘ day ; but I scolded heartily, and insisted
 ‘ upon seeing how near it was finished, on
 ‘ which she ran up to fetch it, leaving me
 ‘ alone in the shop.

‘ The moment she was gone, continu’d
 ‘ this tale-monger, I found my garter
 ‘ was slipt,—I durst not venture to tie
 ‘ it up in that place for fear somebody
 ‘ should come in, but was running into
 ‘ a little room behind the shop ;—but,
 ‘ Lord, I shall never forget how I was
 ‘ surpris’d,—I had no sooner push’d open
 ‘ the

‘the door than — who do you think I
‘saw there?’

‘I cannot guess indeed, my dear, but
‘expect you will inform me, reply’d
‘Jenny,’—‘Why no other, said she than
‘the very individual mr. Jessamy;—do
‘not be uneasy now,—sitting as close to
‘a fine lady as two kernels in a nut-shell,
‘hand in hand, and one of his arms
‘across her shoulder; they were so earnest
‘in discourse, that they either did not
‘hear the door open, or thought it was
‘mrs. Comode herself; but both seem’d
‘in great confusion, and started from
‘their seats when I came in:—whether
‘mr. Jessamy saw enough of me to distin-
‘guish who I was I know not; for I only
‘cried,—I ask pardon, and went out of
‘the room with as much haste as I had
‘enter’d.

‘Mrs. Comode came down presently
‘after, and brought the petticoat; but I
‘was in such a consternation at what I
‘had seen, that I could scarce look upon
‘it:—I told her of what had happen’d,
‘but did not say I knew either of the
‘parties; — she appear’d very much
‘shock’d, but made an aukward excuse,
‘—said they were two of her customers
‘that

‘ that had been walking that morning
 ‘ and came in to beg a pot of tea ; on
 ‘ which I took no farther notice, but
 ‘ have had no good opinion of her ever
 ‘ since.’

‘ Some woman of the town, I suppose,
 ‘ said Jenny ; Pray what sort of creature
 ‘ was it he had with him ?’ -- ‘ Nay, answer’d
 ‘ the other, you cannot think it possible
 ‘ for me to give any particular description
 ‘ of her by the momentary glimpse I had
 ‘ of her ; but I cannot say that altogether
 ‘ she look’d like such a person.’

Jenny had boasted of so much fortitude that she was a little vex’d she had betray’d any want of it by the question she had ask’d ; but she afterwards attoned for it by affecting the most perfect indifference during the rest of the conversation they had together on this subject, which lasted almost the whole time the lady staid.

Nothing is more painful than when the mind is discomposed to be under a necessity of concealing it ; — Jenny had had been impatient to be alone long before she was so ; and found a good deal of ease when she attain’d an opportunity of reflecting at leisure on what she had heard.

The story told her by this lady had not so much affected her as the hint given her by Belpine, concerning a supposition that the match between her and Jemmy was on the point of being broke off,—this tallying so exactly with the intelligence sent to lady Speck at Bath, convinced her that such a thing was really talk'd of in town, and could not but very much alarm both her love and pride.

Yet when she remember'd her lover's tender letter from Ham-Hall, and the many others she had received from him while she was at Bath, besides the haste she found he had made in hurrying down to that place in expectation of meeting her there, she could not tell how to think it possible that, if guilty as represented, he could be capable of such deceit.

‘ There is no answering for the hearts
 ‘ of men, said she, love is an involuntary
 ‘ passion,—chance or fatality directs the
 ‘ choice, and sometimes a single moment
 ‘ undoes the work of years ; —I should
 ‘ not be surpris'd that Jemmy happen'd
 ‘ to see a face which had more charms
 ‘ for him than mine ; — but wherefore
 ‘ then should he carry on the deception
 ‘ with

‘ with me ?—how would it avail his new
 ‘ flame to pretend to prosecute a former
 ‘ one ?—No, continued she after pausing
 ‘ a little ;—for him to act in this manner
 ‘ would be as inconsistent with reason
 ‘ and common-sense as with honour and
 ‘ justice ; and it would also be the ut-
 ‘ most weakness in me to believe it.’

Thus did she make herself tolerably easy as to the main part of what was laid to his charge ; but as to his having enter’d into an affair of gallantry, she had too plain a proof of that under his own hand writing to admit the least room for doubt, and needed not the confirmation she had just received of it from her friend.

Upon the whole, however, few young ladies in her circumstances would have suffer’d less inquietude ; and this must be said of her, that it was much more difficult to raise any tempest in her mind, than it was to calm that tempest after it had been raised.

Neither grief nor anger had the power to affect her long, or to drive her to any excesses while they lasted, — a humour extremely volatile,—a great deal of good nature,

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nature, and an equal share of understanding, were happily united in her composition, and made her always ready to believe the best, and to forgive the worst.

The small remains of resentment and discontent, on the various occasions that had been given her for both, were entirely dissipated, when, on the evening of the succeeding day, she received a letter from Jemmy, — the contents whereof were as follow :

To miss JESSAMY.

“ My more than ever dear JENNY,

“ I HAVE certainly been of late one
“ of the most unlucky fellows in the
“ universe, — first to be detained by a
“ series of cross accidents from following
“ you in a few days, as I proposed ;—
“ then, when I had dispatch’d those
“ vexatious affairs, and just upon the
“ wing to fly to Bath, to be dragg’d
“ to another quarter of the kingdom, by
“ one whose intreaties you know I could
“ not well deny ;—and lastly, when got
“ free from every care but my im-
“ patience to be with you, I arriv’d here
“ full fraught with the expectations of
“ meeting all my soul holds dear, to
“ find you had left the place scarce
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“ twenty-four hours before I came ;—
 “ judge how sincerely I am mortified :
 “ —I suppose the caprice of those you
 “ were with carried you so suddenly
 “ from hence ; but I hope the day is
 “ now very near at hand when those
 “ who take you will be obliged to take
 “ me also ; for indeed, my dear Jenny,
 “ I am quite weary of this life : when-
 “ ever I am from you for any length of
 “ time I feel methinks as if separated
 “ from myself ;—the more I see of other
 “ women, the more I regret the absence
 “ of my dear Jenny :—as I came hither
 “ pretty early last night, I went to the
 “ Long-room,—there were a great many
 “ fine ladies there ; but all their beau-
 “ ties are without a charm for me ; — I
 “ can be gay but not happy in their
 “ company ;—the power of giving true
 “ felicity to Jemmy is reserved only for
 “ his dear, dear Jenny.

“ I give you warning therefore, not
 “ to think of delaying any longer a
 “ blessing I have been made to hope ever
 “ since my first putting on breeches re-
 “ minded me that if I lived I should be
 “ one day a man ; but be assured I should
 “ have little joy in being so, if it were
 “ not for the expectation of being yours
 “ by

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“ by a more tender title than that with
“ which I now subscribe myself,

“ Unalterably and inviolably,

“ My dear dear Jenny’s

“ Most passionately devoted,

“ Most faithful lover,

“ And ever humble

“ And obedient servant,

“ J. JESSAMY.”

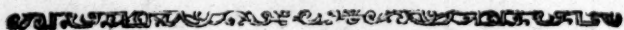
P. S. “ I would have set out to-
“ morrow morning on my return for
“ London, but my servant got an ugly
“ fall from his horse in coming hither,
“ and is very much bruised, so am willing
“ to give him one day to recover him-
“ self ; but hope the next to be so far on
“ my journey towards you, as that there
“ will be but a few hours distance be-
“ tween your receiving this and the
“ author of it,—till when I am, my dear
“ dear Jenny,

“ Yours as above.

Jenny was now in such great good
humour with her lover, that she grew
half resolved to consent to his desires for

the consummation of their marriage, if it were only to put a final end to those idle reports which had been spread concerning his having an intention to break it off.

But before we bring them together again, it is highly necessary that the reader should be made fully acquainted with the manner in which Jemmy had passed his time during this little separation, and also to clear up those parts of his conduct which have hitherto appeared mysterious.



C H A P. XIX.

Returns to what has doubtless been long ago expected, and opens a new scene of various and entertaining occurrences.

I AM very much afraid that poor Jemmy has lain for a great while under the displeasure of my fair readers, and that few among them will be quite so ready as Jenny has been to take his bear word for a sufficient proof of his honour, and the sincerity of his passion.

It

It is high time therefore to let his actions speak for themselves; and if they cannot shew him so wholly blameless as could be wish'd, from the frailties of youth and nature, they will at least defend his character from the more gross imputations of perfidiousness, ingratitude, and deceit.

As I have no view to self-interest in this work, — no time-server, no patron to please, it may be depended on that I shall present my hero such as he truly is, and not like some political historians of a modern date, attempt to mislead the judgment by any false glosses or misrepresentations of facts.

The writers I have been speaking of, will not allow the person on whom fortune has not vouchsafed to smile any one virtue or good quality; — he must be all black, without a single speck of white, even to excite the compassion of the world; — what false steps he may have been guilty of are ascribed to his own innate propensity to evil, not to any inadvertency, nor to the wicked insinuations of those on whom he may unhappily have depended, and who perhaps have

found their interest in pushing him on things purposely to betray and ruin him.

Whereas, on the other hand, the man whom a concurrence of fortuitious events, or perhaps some indirect measures of his own or partisans contrivance, have raised to prosperity, shall be mounted on the pinnacle of fame,—his virtues, if he has any, be resounded even to the remotest borders of the earth, and all his vices, though numerous as the hairs upon his head, and glaring with red impiety, be so screen'd and shadow'd over with the incense of panegyric, as not to be discern'd but by a few eagle-eyed observers;—but I shall say no more,—these authors perhaps earn their sustenance by the labour of the pen;—these are not times for truth to go clad in velvet, and there is no serving God and mammon.

I cannot, however, without great injustice, close this reflection till I have taken notice, that there is one who bravely and almost alone, has courage to enter the lists of battle against an host of adversaries, and attempts to rescue injured innocence from the claws of cruel and all-devouring scandal;—may his honest endeavours meet the success they merit, and in spite of prejudice and partiality
open

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open the eyes of too long hood-wink'd reason.

And now — for our Jemmy Jessamy ; —nothing is more certain than that he had determined to follow his dear Jenny to Bath, according to his promise, as soon as the affairs which brought his steward to town should be dispatch'd ; nor was he less uneasy than one of his letters inserted in a former chapter had intimated to her, on finding himself likely to be detained in London so much longer than he had expected at the time of her departure.

Business of any kind, especially of that sort in which he was now engaged, was no way agreeable to his humour ; —to be obliged to sit for hours together reading over leases, bonds and ejectments, instead of poetry and books of diversion ; —to converse every day with men of the law instead of the men of pleasure, was extremely distasteful to him ; but in the midst of all this he met with something which though he did not think of any very great moment, served however to add to the perplexity of his mind, and involve him in an embarrassment he had never dreamt of.

He was at breakfast one morning when his servant inform'd him, that a gentleman who call'd himself Morgan desir'd to speak with him ; — this was a person for whom Jemmy had a very great esteem, not only on account of many good qualities he was possess'd of, but likewise as he knew he had been always highly respected by his father.

He gave orders that he should be immediately introduced, and when he was so, began to testify, with as much sincerity as politeness, how much he thought himself indebted to him for the favour of this visit ; but he was soon interrupted by the other, who with an honest plainness replied in these terms :

‘ Mr. Jeffamy, said he, this is not a
 ‘ visit of mere ceremony ; — I come not
 ‘ hither at this time either to make or
 ‘ receive any compliments, but to do
 ‘ you a more essential service, and myself
 ‘ a more real pleasure :— to be free with
 ‘ you, continued he, I am very much
 ‘ troubled at some things I have heard
 ‘ in relation to you, and would gladly
 ‘ offer you such advice as my long experience of the world may enable me to
 ‘ give you.’

Few

Few young people like to have their conduct call'd in question ;—Jemmy presently imagined that the old gentleman had been inform'd of some little flights, —some trifling irregularities which company and the gaiety of his own temper might have led him into, and expected to be entertain'd with a grave lesson on that occasion :— he told him, however, he should willingly listen to any instructions he should give him.

‘ I believe, resumed mr. Morgan, that
 ‘ you are convinced I wish you well ;
 ‘ but if you are not I hope what I have
 ‘ to say will make you so :—mistake me
 ‘ not, pursued he, seeing the other look
 ‘ very serious, —I am not going to re-
 ‘ primand you, — I know not as yet
 ‘ whether you deserve it ; — I have not
 ‘ seen miss Jessamy since she was an
 ‘ infant ;—I have heard, indeed, a very
 ‘ good character both of her person and
 ‘ accomplishments ; but you are the best
 ‘ judge of her merits as well as of your
 ‘ own heart ;—I am confident that when
 ‘ your parents agreed upon a marriage
 ‘ between you, they meant not it should
 ‘ render either of you miserable, so have
 ‘ nothing to say as to that ;—but what-
 ‘ ever be the motive of your breaking

‘ with her, I would not have you, me.
 ‘ thinks, transfer your addressees to any
 ‘ one where there is not a greater pro-
 ‘ bability of being more happy.’

Jemmy was so confounded, — so
 astonish’d at hearing him speak in this
 manner, that he had not the power, for
 some moments, of uttering one syllable,
 and when he had, it was only to cry,—
 ‘ Breaking with her, sir,—what,—break-
 ‘ ing with miss Jeffamy ?

‘ You have doubtless your own reasons
 ‘ for so doing, reply’d the good old gen-
 ‘ tleman ; but let that pass, — I would
 ‘ only have you be wary how you make
 ‘ a second choice ;—it is not in my na-
 ‘ ture to traduce the character of any
 ‘ one ;—miss Chit may be a very deser-
 ‘ ving young woman for any thing I have
 ‘ to accuse her of ; but you know very
 ‘ well that her family is doubtful,— her
 ‘ fortune precarious, — and if she should
 ‘ have any, it will be little for her husband’s
 ‘ honour to receive,—besides, this is not
 ‘ the worst, for though she may be vir-
 ‘ tuous in fact, yet she keeps company
 ‘ with some persons of both sexes, which
 ‘ does not become a woman who has any
 ‘ regard for reputation ; in fine, my
 ‘ dear

‘ dear mr. Jessamy, she is in no respect
‘ a fit wife for you.’

‘ A wife for me ! said Jemmy not yet
‘ recover’d from this amazement ; — for
‘ heaven’s sake, sir, explain the meaning
‘ of all this ;—you talk of things which
‘ have so little analogy with my inten-
‘ tions, that they never once enter’d into
‘ my head or heart ;—to break my en-
‘ gagements with miss Jessamy, or to
‘ make my addresses to miss Chit, are
‘ both of them equally inconsistent with
‘ my inclination as with my reason ; and
‘ it is not possible for me to conceive how
‘ such chimeras could come into the
‘ thoughts of any one.’

‘ As to the first, answer’d mr. Morgan,
‘ I have heard it mention’d in several
‘ companies where I have been, as an
‘ event past all dispute ; and as to what
‘ concerns miss Chit, I was not only told
‘ it by a person who frequently visits her,
‘ but also had it confirm’d yesterday at
‘ the coffee-house by her own father,
‘ who being asked if there was any truth
‘ in the report of an intended marriage
‘ between his daughter and mr. Jessamy,
‘ reply’d with his usual stiffness and for-
‘ mality, that he believed a treaty of
‘ that nature was upon the carpet.’

Jemmy, on hearing this, was fully persuaded that so idle a rumour could proceed from nothing but the vanity of that young lady, which so incensed him against her, that he could not forbear, in the first emotions of passion, speaking of her in terms which nothing but the occasion could excuse.

As he was discussing the matter with mr. Morgan, and convincing that gentleman of the entire fallacy of all he had reproach'd him with, a card was brought from miss Chit, in which was wrote these words :

“ Miss Chit gives her compliments to
 “ mr. Jessamy, and desires his company
 “ to a concert to be performed by private
 “ hands this evening at her house.”

‘ Now, sir, said he to mr. Morgan,
 ‘ you shall see the little influence the
 ‘ charms of this vain girl has over me,
 ‘ —I will send her a letter instead of a
 ‘ card, and such a one as shall put an
 ‘ effectual stop to all the foolish imagi-
 ‘ nations she may have conceiv’d on my
 ‘ account.’

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He then took pen and paper, and without giving himself much time to consider what he was about, wrote to her in these terms :

To miss CHIT.

“ MADAM,

“ **B**USINESS denies me the pleasure
“ of accepting your invitation ; but
“ I lay hold of this opportunity of taking my leave of you, as I cannot do
“ it in person.

“ Love and honour summon me to
“ Bath, where my dear miss Jessamy is
“ gone before ;— as it is impossible but
“ you must have heard of my engagements with that lady, you will not
“ wonder that I am in the utmost impatience to follow her.

“ Whenever you venture on marriage,
“ I wish you all the happiness which I
“ hope very shortly to enjoy in that state,
“ with the admirable lady to whom I am
“ going.—I am,

“ With thanks for all favours,

“ Madam,

“ Your most obedient

“ humble servant,

“ J. JESSAMY.”

This

This letter, after having shew'd it to mr. Morgan and received his approbation, Jemmy sent directly away, and gave orders that it should be left for the lady without waiting for any answer.

On talking farther of this affair, they both concluded that the report must have taken rise originally from the vanity of the daughter and the stupidity of the father, who misconstruing the civilities Jemmy treated them with as the effects of an amorous inclination, had boasted of the imaginary conquest to some of their acquaintance, — those again had whisper'd it to others, till it went round, and became, as is common in such cases, the universal secret.

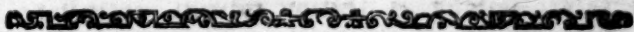
Thus had the artifices of Belpine made miss Chit and her father, who were in reality no more than the dupes of his design, appear as the principal contrivers of it; — there is nothing, indeed, in which the judgment is so liable to be deceived, as in endeavouring to discover the first author of a calumny, — those generally take care to stand behind the curtain, — content themselves with the invention, and leave the work of malice to be performed

formed by others,—as one of our poets says:

'Tis difficult, when rumour once is
spread,
To trace its windings to their fountain-
head.

The injustice which Jemmy and his friend were guilty of in this point, may however have some claim to absolution, as their belief was founded on the most strong probability of truth that could be.

These gentlemen parted not till the clock striking three reminded them of dinner; — mr. Morgan, being engaged at home, would fain have taken Jemmy with him; but he was not at present in a humour for much company, — therefore desired to be excused from complying with the invitation.



C H A P. XX.

Is very short, but pithy.

A VOLATILE temper is not always a sufficient security from discontent; — Jemmy loved his dear Jenny
even

even more than he knew he did himself; and to be assured from a mouth whose veracity he was too well convinced of to suspect, that it was said he had quitted her for the sake of miss Chit, he look'd upon as such an indignity to her merits, as gave him more pain than any censure the supposed change might bring upon himself.

He wrote to her that same night; but as he hoped the idle report which gave him so much vexation could not as yet, at least, have extended itself so far as Bath, he thought it improper to make any mention of it till he should see her in person, and have the better opportunity of proving the falsehood of it;—he complained therefore only of the business that kept him so long from her, and his heart now more than ever overflowing with love and tenderness, his expressions were conformable.

This was the letter which Jenny received immediately after the intelligence given her by lady Speck and miss Wingman of his supposed infidelity;—the effects of it have been already shewn, and need not be repeated.

Belpine, who had been at miss Chit's concert, was a good deal surprised at not finding

finding Jemmy there, as he knew he had been invited, but much more when that young lady, taking him aside, shew'd him the answer that had been sent to her card, and reproach'd him in terms pretty severe for having endeavour'd to persuade her she was mistress of an heart which she now found was so firmly attach'd to another.

Happy was it for this deceitful man that the time and place would not allow of much discourse, as he had not consider'd that such an event might possibly happen, nor was he prepared with any subterfuge for his proceeding; — the confusion he was in was very great; but it did not make him repent of what he had done, or cease from future projects for the same base end; as will hereafter appear.

It is natural, when the mind is overcharged with thoughts of any kind, to disburthen itself to those who we believe take an interest in our affairs; — Jemmy had not a greater confidence in any one man of his acquaintance than in Belpine, — it may be supposed, therefore, that he fail'd not to communicate to him the perplexity he was at present under, and the story which had occasion'd it.

That

That faithless friend affected the utmost astonishment at the recital, and cried out with a shew of the most affectionate zeal;—‘Good God!—I hope miss Jessamy ‘ has heard nothing of this.’

‘ I think it scarce possible, reply’d
 ‘ Jemmy, that such a report can have
 ‘ reach’d her ears at least as yet, in the
 ‘ place where she is; and as I hope to
 ‘ be with her in a few days shall take
 ‘ care to arm her against what she might
 ‘ be told hereafter by relating it myself.’

This greatly disconcerted Belpine;—he had flatter’d himself that Jemmy’s affairs would have detain’d him so long in London, that the stratagems laid to inspire her with a belief of his inconstancy would have taken too strong a hold of her heart to be totally removed:—fain he would have dissuaded him from going to Bath, but could find no reasons for that purpose plausible enough to prevent the real motive from being suspected;—chance, however, at present befriended his designs, and did that for him which all his own invention, fertile as it was, could not furnish him with the means of accomplishing.

As Jemmy, in an indolent and uncontentemplative mood, was one day loitering in Covent-Garden Piazza, a fine gilt chariot, with two footmen behind it, stopp'd at one of the arches, and just as he was passing, an ancient gentleman and a very young lady alighted out of it, and went into the great auction-house, lately mr. Cock's, but now occupy'd in the same manner by mr. Langford.

He started, and was strangely surpris'd at sight of this lady; — not on account of her beauty, though she was handsome beyond description, but because he thought himself perfectly well acquainted with her face; but where, or at what time, he had been so, he could not presently recollect.

He stood for the space of several minutes endeavouring to recover a more distinct idea of that lovely person; but finding it impossible, he stepp'd to one of the footmen, who was leaning his back against a pillar, and ask'd him to whom that chariot belong'd; and being answer'd — 'To sir Thomas Hardy.' — 'Then, resumed Jemmy, I suppose the young lady with him is his daughter.' — 'No, sir, replied the fellow with a smile, which

‘ which he was not able to restrain,— I
 ‘ assure you she is his wife.’

Jemmy on this began to think he had been mistaken ;—resolving however to be convinced, he went into the auction room, doubting not but a second and more full view would set him right.

There was a great deal of company, but he presently singled her out, and was now more assured than ever that they were no strangers to each other ; when, on fixing his eyes upon her, he perceiv’d her countenance change at sight of him, that she grew pale and red by turns, and betrayed all the marks of the utmost confusion.

Yet all this was not sufficient to enable him to bring back to remembrance what curiosity made him so desirous of retrieving, till the lady, taking the opportunity of her husband’s being engaged in looking over some pictures, advanced hastily towards him, and said in a low voice—
 ‘ What has mr. Jessamy forgot his Celia
 ‘ of the woods ?

‘ Heavens ! cried he, what a stupid
 ‘ dolt was I ?’—‘ Hush, reply’d she, take
 ‘ no notice of me here ;’—she had kept
 her

her eyes upon her husband all the time she was speaking to Jemmy, and observing that he now look'd that way rejoin'd him in an instant.

The old baronet kept very close to his fair wife all the rest of the time, yet had she the address to steal a moment just to bid Jemmy meet her at ten the next morning at that end of the Mall next Buckingham house.

He could only give her a bow of assent ; and remain'd in a consternation which only can be guess'd at by the knowledge who Celia was, and the intercourse he formerly had with her.



C H A P. XXI.

Discovers Celia of the woods on her first acquaintance with Jemmy, and also some other particulars of equal importance.

THOUGH Jemmy, when he was at Oxford, debar'd himself from few of those gay amusements which he saw taken by his fellow collegians, yet he apply'd

apply'd himself to his studies more closely than most gentlemen commoners think they are under any obligation to do ; and, because he would not be interrupted, would frequently steal from the university and pass whole hours together in the fields, either reading or contemplating.

A pretty warm dispute happening to rise one day between two students concerning the true reading of Persius, he was ambitious of becoming more master of the subject than either of them seem'd to be ; — accordingly he put the book into his pocket and repair'd to his usual place of retirement.

The evening was fair and pleasant, and he was so much absorb'd in meditation, that he wander'd on to a greater distance from the town than he had been accustom'd, till at last, finding himself a little weary, he sat down at the foot of a large spreading oak.

Here he prosecuted his examination of that crabbed author, but had not long done so before he was interrupted, and his eyes taken off by the sudden appearance of a sight more pleasing.

The tree, which served him at once for a support and screen, was just at the entrance of a little wood; — a rustling among the leaves made him look that way, where he immediately saw a young country maid; — she was neat, tho' plainly dress'd, and had eyes which might vye with any that sparkled in the box or drawing-room.

At this view he was not master of himself; — like Carlos at the sight of Angelina in the play, he threw away his book, — started from the posture he was in, and advanced towards the sweet temptation; — she saw him too and fled, but not so fast as not to be easily overtaken.

The first rencounter between these two young persons reminds me of a passage I have read in one of our best poets :

As Mahomet was musing in his cell,
Some dull insipid paradise to trace,
A brisk Arabian girl came tripping by,
Passing she shot at him a side-long
glance,
And look'd behind as if to be pursu'd;
He took the hint, embraced the flying
fair,
And having found his Heaven, he fix'd
it there.

It

It is not to be imagined that Jemmy accosted a maid of her degree with any set speeches or formal salutations ;—those charms which in a woman of condition would have inspired him with a respectful awe, served only to fill his heart with the most unwarrantable desires ;—he told her she was very pretty, and at the same time attempted to convince her that he thought her so by catching her forcibly in his arms, and giving her two or three hearty kisses.

She struggled,—blush'd,—cried—‘ fy e ‘ fir,’ and desired him to forbear ; but our young commoner was not to be so easily rebuffed ; — the little repulses she gave him served only the more to inflame his amorous inclination ; and he had perhaps completed his conquest, without any farther ceremony, if she had not fallen on her knees, and with tears besought him to desist.

Jemmy had too much honour and good nature not to be touch'd with a behaviour so moving, and which he had so little reason to expect from the weak efforts she at first had made to repel his caresses.

‘ Nay,

‘ Nay,—my dear creature, said he, I
 ‘ scorn to do any thing by force ; but if
 ‘ all the love in the world can make you
 ‘ mine I shall be happy ;—tell me there-
 ‘ fore, continued he, who you are, and
 ‘ where you live, that I may see you
 ‘ another time.’

‘ Oh lud, sir, cried she, that is im-
 ‘ possible ;--What do you think my friends
 ‘ would say, if they should see such a
 ‘ gentleman as you come to visit me ?’—
 ‘ I did not mean so, reply’d he, but I
 ‘ suppose your father lives here about,
 ‘ and it may be is of some business that
 ‘ might give a pretence for my calling at
 ‘ his house.’

‘ My father keeps a farm, said she,
 ‘ about six miles off ; but I am at pre-
 ‘ sent with my uncle, who is a Gardener,
 ‘ and lives on the other side the wood.’
 ‘ —That’s unlucky, rejoin’d he, for I
 ‘ have no sort of occasion for any thing
 ‘ in his way.—You must then consent to
 ‘ meet me, my little angel, added he,
 ‘ tenderly pressing her hand.’

On this she blush’d,—hung down her
 head, but made no answer ; till he repeat-
 ing his request, and enforcing it by all

the rhetoric he was master of, whether real or feign'd I will not pretend to say, she at last promised to meet him the next evening at the place where they now were.

He received this grant with the greatest shew of transport, but made her swear to the fulfilling it; after which he ask'd her by what name he should think of his dear pretty charmer. - 'They call me Celia,' 'sir, said she.'—'Then, cried he, you shall be my Celia of the woods, and I will be your Jessamy of the plains.'

The sun beginning now to withdraw his beams, they were obliged to part; but before they did Celia gave evident indications that her Jessamy had made no slight impresson on her young and unexperienced heart.

Jemmy return'd from his evening's excursion with thoughts very full of this new amour, which he flatter'd himself would afford him a most agreeable amusement, without costing much pains in the acquisition.

Besides, the liking he had for this country girl seem'd to him to be no breach of his fidelity to Jenny, or any way

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way interfere with the honourable affections he had for that young lady ;— she being then but in her sixteenth year, himself not quite nineteen, and was not intended by their parents that they should marry till he had attain'd the age of one and twenty ;—so that it was a long time to the completion of his felicity with her. — I know not whether my fair readers will look upon this as a sufficient excuse for him ; but dare answer that those of the other sex will think what he did was no more than a venial transgression.

As for poor Celia, she was in agitations which she had never known nor had the least notion of before ;— she was charm'd with the person of Jemmy ;— she was quite ravish'd with the kind things he had said to her ; and though the liberties he had taken with her at that first interview would have been shocking to her modesty, had they been offer'd by any of those whom she was accusom'd to converse with, yet did that very rudeness in him appear too agreeable to alarm her with any dreadful apprehensions of his repeating it.

More full of joy than fear she long'd for the appointed hour of meeting him again, and hasted to the rendezvous,

where she had not waited many minutes before the charmer of her soul appear'd; —he flew to her with open arms, and the transport she felt made her half return the strenuous embrace he gave her.

They sat down together upon a little hillock beneath the shade of some trees which arch'd above their heads and form'd a kind of canopy;—here Jemmy finding her softened to his wish, would fain have finish'd the affair he had made so considerable a progress in; but, on perceiving his intent, she burst a second time into tears, — begg'd he would not ruin her,— confess'd she loved him, but said she could not bear the thoughts of being naught.

He could scarce keep himself from laughing; but as he had promised not to make use of force, fail'd not to urge all the arguments that such a thing would admit of to persuade her that what he requested of her was not naught in itself, but perfectly conformable to the laws of nature.

She was too ignorant, and perhaps also too little inclined to attempt any thing in order to confute what he said on this occasion; but though she refused with
less

less resolution than she had done, yet she would not absolutely consent to his desires :—on which Jemmy, not doubting but the fruit thus ripened would soon fall of itself, told her,—that he was not of a humour to accept of any favours granted with reluctance, and that he would content himself with such as he should find her willing to bestow.

He kept his word, and press'd her no farther at that time ;—this the poor innocent creature look'd upon as so great a condescension in him, and thought herself so much obliged by it that she readily allow'd his kisses, his embraces, and in fine every freedom except that only one which he had assured her he would not take without her leave.

Notwithstanding what they call'd the crown of a lover's felicity was wanting, this couple pass'd the time they were together in a manner pleasing enough to both ; nor parted without a mutual promise of re-enjoying the same happiness again on the ensuing day.

Jemmy, however, who was of too sanguine and amorous a disposition not to feel a good deal of impatience for the consummation of his wishes, in order to

hasten it contrived a stratagem, which, from the ascendant he had gain'd over Celia's heart, gave him no room to doubt would fail of success in making her lovely person no less entirely his,—it was this :

He approach'd her at their next meeting with the most solemn and dejected air ;—she had brought him a fine posy selected from the choicest flowers in her uncle's garden, tied together with a piece of green riband ; — she was going to present it to him, when perceiving the change in his countenance she started, and asked him if he was not well.

‘ No Celia, answer'd he, affecting to speak in a very faint voice,—I am sick, —sick at heart,’—‘ Indeed I am very sorry, said she, smell to this posy, — I hope it will refresh you, my dear sir.’ — No, Celia, return'd he, it is not in the power of art or nature to relieve me, you must lose your lover ;—I must die, my Celia.’ —‘ Now all that's good forbid it, cried she, and wept bitterly.’

‘ I must die, said he again, or what is worse than death, — never see my Celia more.’ — Surprised and overwhelm'd with the mingled passions of love and grief at hearing him speak in
th is

this manner, she threw her taper arms about his neck, laid her cheek close to his, and begg'd him to tell her what he meant, and the cause of his complaint.

‘ You, dear cruel maid, answer’d he
 ‘ with a well counterfeited agony, — it
 ‘ is you which is the cause of my com-
 ‘ plaint;—and it is you alone can be my
 ‘ cure:—in fine, it is impossible for me
 ‘ to breathe the same air with you and
 ‘ not see you,—yet every time I see you
 ‘ gives fresh tortures to my bleeding
 ‘ heart, by letting me know still more of
 ‘ the Heaven I am deny’d possessing;—
 ‘ I have therefore taken a resolution to
 ‘ banish myself for ever from you, and
 ‘ from this country. — You must then,
 ‘ continued he, — embracing her with
 ‘ the utmost eagerness, either lose all
 ‘ your Jessamy or give me all my Celia.’

The consternation she was in is not to be express’d; but every look, — every motion, betray’d to him the inward trouble of her mind; — she could not speak for several minutes; but at last cried out, with a voice interrupted by sighs,— ‘ Oh
 ‘ mr. Jessamy, will you, — can you be
 ‘ so barbarous to leave me, — leave me
 ‘ for ever!’

‘ Call not that barbarous which your
 ‘ unkindness drives me to, rejoin’d he ;
 ‘ —if I loved you with a common passion,
 ‘ I could perhaps be easy under the severe
 ‘ restriction you have laid upon me ;—
 ‘ but you are too beautiful, and I too
 ‘ much enamoured —Oh then throw off
 ‘ at once this cruel coyness, — this un-
 ‘ merited reserve, — generously say you
 ‘ will be all mine, and make both me
 ‘ and yourself completely bless’d.’

He utter’d these last words in accents
 which pierced her to the soul ;—she was
 all confusion,—irresolute for a while,—
 sometimes looking on him, and sometimes
 on the ground ; but love at length,—
 prevailing love, got the better of that
 bashfulness, which ’tis likely had, more
 than any other principle, till now re-
 strain’d her from yielding to his suit ;—
 she threw herself into his arms, and
 hiding her head within his bosom,—‘ I
 ‘ cannot part with you, cried she, I can
 ‘ deny you nothing,—you have my heart,
 ‘ and must command whatever Celia has
 ‘ to give.’

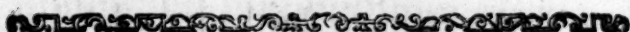
There is a strong probability, if it does
 not amount even to a certainty, that
 Jemmy would not have given her time
 for

for a second thought, which might have revok'd the promise she had made; but his plot, hitherto so successful, was now entirely frustrated by the sudden sound of men's voices at a distance, and which seem'd to approach more near.

' Oh lud, cried she extremely frightened,
' I hear my uncle;—if he should come
' this way and find me with a gentleman,
' he will tell my father, and I shall be
' half kill'd;—Dear mr. Jessamy, make
' all the haste you can out of the wood;
' —I will go and face him, and pretend
' I was going to carry these flowers to a
' great lady who lives hard by.'

Jemmy could not forbear cursing both the uncle and the interruption; but thought proper to comply with Celia's advice, after having exacted an oath from her to meet him again the next day and fulfil her engagement, which she readily gave, and then tripp'd away as fast as her legs could carry her.

Thus did they part, not to see each other again for a much longer time than either of them imagined,—the cause of which will presently be shewn.



C H A P. XXII.

In which, among other things, it will be found highly proper that some passages formerly inserted should be re-capitulated, in order to form the better understanding of those which are now upon the tapis.

JEMMY return'd to the college in no very good humour, as may be supposed, though the mortification of the disappointment he had received was very much alleviated by the assurance he had of Celia's affection for him; but on his entering into his chambers he met with something which made the adventures of the day, and indeed all that had pass'd between him and the country maid, vanish like a dream from his remembrance.

A letter was presented to him which had been left for him by the post, summoning him immediately to London to receive the last commands and blessing of a dying father; — filial piety and dutious affection now took up all his mind, and he thought of nothing but to be

be speedy in his obedience to the authoritative mandate.

Accordingly he rose the next morning by break of day,—rode post, and arrived in London before evening, as has been already related in the beginning of the first volume of this work.

On his going back to the university, after the melancholy solemnity of his father's funeral was over, Celia came again a little into his head; and though he design'd shortly to quit Oxford entirely, yet he thought that for the time he staid he could not have a more agreeable amusement than the prosecution of that amour to divert his affliction for the loss he had sustain'd.

To this end he went to the wood,—ranged through every part of that scene of their loves, but found no Celia there; — he knew her uncle's name, but not directly where he lived; or if he had, would not have thought it proper to go to his house to make any enquiry concerning her; — happening, however, to see a fellow cutting down wood, he ventur'd to ask him if one mr. Adams, a gardener, did not live somewhere thereabouts,—‘Ay, sir, reply'd the man, if you

‘ turn by that thicket on your right
 ‘ hand you may see his house.’—‘ Nay,
 ‘ said Jemmy carelessly, I have no business
 ‘ with him,—I have only heard he was a
 ‘ very honest man.’—‘ Ay, sir, rejoin’d
 ‘ the other, that he is to be sure, as
 ‘ ever broke bread ;—I have known him
 ‘ above these thirty years, and never heard
 ‘ an ill thing of him in my life.’

Jemmy finding this fellow seem’d to be
 of a communicative disposition, demanded
 of him what family mr. Adams had. —
 ‘ Ah, sir, said the man,—he has only two
 ‘ boys, — one he brings up to his own
 ‘ business and the other is a gentleman’s
 ‘ servant ;—his wife,—rest her soul, has
 ‘ been dead two years come Michaelmas
 ‘ next, and he would have been quite
 ‘ helpless if he had not got a brother’s
 ‘ daughter of his to look after his things ;
 ‘ —but she is gone now ;— I know not
 ‘ what the poor man will do,—he must
 ‘ even hire a maid, and there are so few
 ‘ of them good.’ —‘ What is his niece
 ‘ dead too, cried Jemmy pretty hastily,’
 ‘ No sir, answer’d he, — but she is gone
 ‘ away ;—her father, belike, sent for her
 ‘ home,—I know not on what account,
 ‘ —not I ; but she has left poor Adams,
 ‘ and he is in a piteous plight.’

Jemmy

Jemmy being desirous of receiving as much intelligence as he could of his little mistress, affected to be in some concern for the honest gardener, her uncle, pretending he had heard much in his commendation from those that knew him; and said it was a great pity that the maid should be sent for away, as she was so useful to him, and so notable a manager.

‘ Ay very handy, indeed sir, answer’d
 ‘ mr. Adams’s friend, — she kept every
 ‘ thing in the house so clean and so tight
 ‘ it would have done your heart good
 ‘ to have seen it;—but as to her father’s
 ‘ sending for her away,— I don’t know,
 ‘ —mayhap he had a mind to have her
 ‘ under his own eye,—he has the character
 ‘ of a parlous-shrewd man, and sees
 ‘ things a great while before they come.’

‘ Was there any danger then to be
 ‘ apprehended in her staying, demanded
 ‘ Jemmy?’ — ‘ I can say nothing as to
 ‘ that, sir,—she is as likely,—as comely
 ‘ a lass as any in the county round,—but
 ‘ I believe very honest;—though she has a
 ‘ kind of a leer with her eyes, and is always
 ‘ simpering and smirking; and you know
 ‘ sir, that gives encouragement;— there
 ‘ were a power of young fellows that had
 a han-

‘ a hankering after her,—I have heard my
 ‘ wife say a thousand times I believe,—
 ‘ and she is seldom mistaken, that she
 ‘ wish’d Celia might come to good.

‘ Besides, sir, continued he, shaking
 ‘ his head, we are so near the University
 ‘ here, and the young students are most
 ‘ of them wild blades, and spend their
 ‘ time more in running after the girls
 ‘ than on their books.’

It must be observed that Jemmy was now in his travelling dress; for had he appeared as a gentleman-commoner, nobody can suppose that the countryman would have been so free in his discourse with him, which being once enter’d into he would probably have gone on with till he had related all he knew of the news of the whole parish.

But Jemmy having satisfied his curiosity as fully as he could have desired, and much more than he had any reason to expect, grew quite weary of this kind of conversation, and soon after took leave of his informer, and walk’d back to the College.

He had now lost his Celia of the woods,—he knew indeed where to find her; but

but as his stay in Oxford was to be very short, and he had many friends to see before he went away, he had no time to devote to the pursuit of a mistress so far removed ; — besides, he knew not what inconveniencies might attend his seeking her at her father's house ; and was too indolent in his nature to risque any difficulties for the sake of gratifying a passion such as the beauty of that girl had inspired him with.

After he had quitted the University entirely, and was settled in London, besides the society of his dear Jenny, whom, in spite of the little excursions of his youth, he loved with the most pure and respectful passion, new scenes of life, — new amusements, — new pleasures, crowded upon his senses, and presently obliterated the memory of those he left behind.

Celia, no more was wish'd for, no more thought on by him, how was it possible that after so long a space of time as two whole years, and having seen such a variety of beautiful faces, he should be able to recollect his plain country maid under the character of a fine town lady, blazing with gold and jewels, attended by a splendid equipage, and dignify'd with a title.

This

This adventure, notwithstanding, served greatly to dissipate all the chagrine which the story invented in relation to his infidelity to Jenny had involved him in; —he could not keep himself from being highly pleased at meeting with a person who had once so many charms for him, nor with finding, by her behaviour towards him, that so prodigious a change of fortune had not made the least change in her sentiments on his account:— in a word, all the long dormant inclinations which he had formerly felt for Celia, now revived in his bosom at sight of lady Hardy; and he hesitated not a moment whether he should comply with the appointment she had made him.

How uncertain,—how wandering are the passions of mankind, — how yielding to every temptation that presents itself; —seldom are they masters of their own hearts or actions, especially at Jemmy's years; and well may they deceive others in what they are deceived themselves.

When they profess to love no other object than the present, they may, perhaps, resolve to be as just as they pretend; —but alas!—this is not in their power, even though it may in their will;—they
can.

can no more command their wishes than they can their thoughts, which, as Shakspeare tells us, — ‘Once lost, are gone beyond the clouds.’ — We often see that to reverse this boasted constancy is the work of but a single minute, — and then in vain their past professions recoil upon their minds ; — in vain the idea of the forsaken fair haunts them in nightly visions.

For mighty love, which honour does
despite,
For reason shews them a new charmer’s
eyes.

CH A P. XXIII.

Contains only such accidents as are too common to excite much wonder.

I WOULD not be understood, by the observations made on the generality of mankind in the close of the preceding chapter, that the vice of inconstancy ought to be imputed to the hero of this history ; what in most others is the effect of a love of variety, was produced in him by the too great vivacity and sprightliness of his temper : he had sometimes very strong inclinations,

inclinations, but never a real affection for any but his dear Jenny; and tho' these may have led him into errors which render him not wholly blameless, yet the permanence of his devoirs to that sole object of his honourable passion, shews his character to have in it infinitely more of light than shade.

Let no one therefore pass too severe a censure on his conduct in regard to this fair tempter, either as Celia of the woods or lady Hardy;—whatever was the first motive of his addresses to her, curiosity to know how this transformation came about might now, and doubtless had, some share in exciting him to renew his acquaintance with her.

I shall not, however, as I have more than once assured my readers, make any attempts either to palliate or disguise the truth:—Jemmy was punctual to the hour that had been prefix'd by his mistress, yet found her in the Park before him;—she had placed herself on a bench behind the Mall, as being most free from company:—when he first discerned her, she seem'd talking to a young woman who stood waiting near her, but left her ladyship alone before he could come up to them.

‘ How

‘ How little possible was it for me to expect this blessing,—said he approaching her.’—‘ Hold — hold, — cried she interrupting him,—we have no time at present for fine speeches, and you will be surpris’d to find yourself summon’d here only to be told you must be gone.’ —‘ I should be indeed surpris’d, — rejoin’d he ; — but how have I deserved to be so unhappy ?’

‘ No, no, reply’d she smiling, you are not unhappy, though I could easily tell you how you deserve to be so ; — but this is no place either for a quarrel or a reconciliation : — you must know I could not come out alone for fear of giving suspicion to my old husband, so brought my woman with me ; but as soon as I saw you, sent her home under the pretence of fetching my snuff-box, which I left behind me for that purpose ; — she will be here again in two minutes, for we live but in the next street, and have a door into the Park ; — therefore take this, continued she, and be careful to do as this directs.’

‘ Let me first examine how I approve of the contents, said he with his accustomed gaiety,’ — ‘ You may, answer’d she ;

‘ she ; but then you will lose the only
 ‘ moment that I have to tell you, I am
 ‘ as much yours as ever, and that I have
 ‘ not known one joy in life since last we
 ‘ parted.’ — ‘ Angelic creature ! cried he
 ‘ with a voice and eyes all transport, oh
 ‘ that I had the opportunity of throwing
 ‘ myself at your feet to thank, as it de-
 ‘ serves, this goodness !—where,—when
 ‘ shall we meet again ?’

‘ The paper I gave you will inform
 ‘ you, reply’d she ; but do not disappoint
 ‘ lady Hardy in the same manner as you
 ‘ did Celia of the woods.’ — ‘ Oh I can
 ‘ clear myself of that, cried he, it was
 ‘ a sad necessity that drove me from you,
 ‘ and I had no means of conveying a letter
 ‘ to you ;—but I have sought you since.’
 ‘ — ‘ And I have sought you too, rejoin’d
 ‘ she ; but we must talk of this hereafter ;
 ‘ —I see my woman coming,—leave me
 ‘ for Heaven’s sake, and if you stay in
 ‘ the walks pass carelessly by, and seem
 ‘ not to regard me.’ — Jemmy had only
 time to tell her, that he would read the
 dear mandate, and obey whatever it en-
 joined.

After speaking these words he retired
 with as much haste as he could to the
 other end of the walk, where he examined
 what

what had been given him by the lady, and found it contain'd only these few expressive lines :

“ **G**O at six this evening percisely to
 “ Mrs. Comode, the habit-maker,
 “ in *** street,—she is already apprized
 “ of your coming, but knows not your
 “ person ; — so you have only to say,—
 “ you are come for the riband,—on which
 “ she will immediately conduct you to

“ Yours, &c.”

It had been observ'd through the course of this history, that Jemmy, in spite of his gay temper, had sometimes the power of thinking very seriously ;—the billet he had in his hand, together with the looks and gestures of the lady, fill'd him with reflections which it cannot be supposed she either intended or wish'd to inspire.

To find that the most timid bashfulness, — the most innocent simplicity of mind and manners thus improved, in the compass of so small a space of time, into all the assured airs of a woman who had pass'd her whole life in artifice and intrigue, seem'd to him a thing so strange, so out of nature, that he would never have believed it possible, had he not seen it
 verified

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verified in the character of his Celia, at
present lady Hardy.

This transformation did not render her more amiable in his eyes;—he was, however, punctual to the assignation, though it is pretty certain his curiosity of knowing those accidents which had occasion'd so extraordinary a revolution, both in her circumstances and behaviour, had as great a share in carrying him thither as any other motive.

On his coming to mrs. Comode's he found the obliging gentlewoman ready to receive him; and, on his giving the appointed signal, led him with a smiling countenance into a back parlour behind the shop, where lady Hardy already waited his approach.

He was doubtless about to salute her with some fine speech, but she no sooner saw him enter than, starting from her seat, she threw herself at once into his arms, before they were even open to receive her;—“My dear, dear mr. Jeffamy, cried she, with an undecipherable softness in her voice and eyes,—a few days past how little did I hope this happiness?”

Such

Such love,—such tenderness, in one so young and beautiful, must have warm'd the heart of a dull Stoick, much more that of one endow'd by nature with the most amorous inclinations, — Jemmy must have been as insensible as he was really the reverse, had he not felt the force of such united charms;—he return'd all her transports,—her caresses, with interest;—they said the most passionate and endearing things to each other; but the energy of their expressions, as they were so often interrupted with kisses and embraces, would be lost in the repetition;—for as mr. Dryden justly says,

Imperfect sentences, and broken sounds,
And nonsense is the eloquence of love.

After the first demonstrations of their mutual joy on this meeting was over,—
' I will not, said she, be so ungenerous to
' accuse you of a crime of which I know
' you clear; — I discover'd the melan-
' choly occasion which call'd you in such
' haste to London; — but tell me, my
' dear Jessamy, continued she, did not
' your heart feel some anguish on finding
' yourself obliged to leave your Celia just
' as you had prevail'd upon her to swear
' she would be yours?'

He

He could not without being guilty of, as much ill manners as ingratitude, avoid pretending he had suffer'd greatly on that account; but whatever was wanting of sincerity in this assertion he attoned for in the relation he made her of the pains he had taken in searching for her on his return to Oxford.

She laugh'd heartily at the detail he gave her of the conversation he had with the countryman concerning her uncle Adams and the affairs of his family;—
 ' And, now, said she, I will make you
 ' the confidant of every thing that has
 ' happen'd to me since I had the pleasure
 ' of seeing you.'

Jemmy then telling her it was a favour for which he had the utmost impatience, she immediately gave him the satisfaction he desired.



C H A P. XXIV.

The history of Celia in the woods prosecuted in that of lady Hardy, related by herself to Jemmy.

“ I WILL not, said she, poison the
 “ sweets of our present moments with
 “ any description of the bitter pangs I
 “ suffer’d in not finding you as I ex-
 “ pected in the wood ;—I had too much
 “ dependance on your love and honour
 “ to entertain one thought that this dis-
 “ appointment was an act of your own
 “ choice ; and therefore fear’d that you
 “ was either suddenly taken sick, or
 “ that some other ill accident had be-
 “ fallen you.

“ Under these apprehensions I pass’d
 “ the most cruel night that ever was ;
 “ — nor did the day bring me much
 “ more tranquility ; though I sometimes
 “ flatter’d myself that business, — com-
 “ pany, or some such like enemy to love,
 “ had kept you from me the evening
 “ before, and that you would not fail on
 “ this to come and make attonement for
 “ the disquiet you had given me.

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M

“ Accord-

“ Accordingly, in this hope I went
 “ about the usual hour to the dear scene
 “ of our past meetings ;—I threw myself
 “ on the little hillock where we had sat—
 “ I kiss’d,—I embraced the tree you had
 “ lean’d against ; — I invoked love and
 “ all its powers to bring my Jessamy
 “ once more to my arms ;—and ran to the
 “ entrance of the wood, and sent my
 “ longing eyes towards town, vainly still
 “ expecting your approach ; — I envied
 “ the little birds that hopped among the
 “ boughs above my head, and wish’d to
 “ be one of them, that I might fly to the
 “ place which I then thought contain’d
 “ you, and see in what manner you were
 “ employ’d.

“ I had like to have forgot, continued
 “ she, I promised that I would not trou-
 “ ble you either with my grief or my
 “ despair, yet I am unwarily running
 “ into a detail of both ;—pardon me,—
 “ my dear Jessamy, — and prepare to
 “ hear what contrivances my passion for
 “ you inspired me with.

“ It was almost dark when I left the
 “ wood ; my uncle was come out of the
 “ grounds and at home before me ; he
 “ chid me for being abroad so late ; but
 “ I made

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" I made an excuse which, though not
" worth your hearing, pass'd well enough
" upon him :—I rose very early the next
" morning, and wrote a little letter to
" you ; but when I had done knew not
" which way to convey it to you, nor
" indeed how to direct it properly, as I
" had never heard you say to which of
" the colleges you belonged.

" Resolved, however, at any rate, and
" whatever I did, to be satisfied concern-
" ing your health, and what was become
" of you, I went to Oxford under the
" pretence of buying something I stood
" in need of ;—I was afraid and ashamed
" to go to the University to ask for you ;
" but believing that you must be known
" in town, enquired at several great
" shops, but without any success, till a
" Perriwig-maker directed me to go to
" a coffee-house, which he said you used
" every day.

" Here I was informed that you had
" been sent for to London on account of
" your father's indispositions, and was
" gone the day before ; but that not
" having quitted the University, it was
" expected you would not long be absent,
" — this intelligence a little comforted
" me, and I return'd with a satisfaction

“ in my mind, which I believe might
“ spread a more than ordinary glee upon
“ my countenance.

“ But however it was, my looks, it
“ seems, were that day ordain'd to do for
“ me what I never had vanity enough to
“ expect from them.

“ On my coming home, I found a
“ chariot with two footmen waiting at
“ our door, and within a very old grave
“ gentleman busy in discourse with my
“ uncle ;—the latter had some time before
“ got a slip from a fine exotic plant out
“ of a nobleman's garden, which he had
“ rear'd to such perfection that it was
“ now loaded with flowers ; and it was
“ concerning the purchase of this, and
“ some other curiosities my uncle's nur-
“ fery afforded, that had brought this
“ guest to our house.

“ I fancy, my dear Jessamy, that you
“ already imagine that the person I am
“ speaking of was no other than sir
“ Thomas Hardy, whose wife I now
“ am, and who you saw yesterday with
“ me at the auction ;—it was he, indeed,
“ whose heart, without designing it, I
“ captivated at first sight.

Jemmy

Jemmy on this could not forbear making some compliments on the force of her charms;— to which she only reply'd, that of how great service soever they had been to her interest, she took no pleasure in looking lovely in any eyes but those of her dear Jessamy, — and then went on with her discourse.

“ The old baronet, resumed she, had
 “ his eyes fix'd upon me from the mo-
 “ ment I came into the room, and soon
 “ took an opportunity of asking my uncle
 “ if I was his daughter.’ — ‘ No, please
 “ your honour, reply'd he, she is only my
 “ niece ; — farmer Adams, one of your
 “ honour's tenants, is her father.’

‘ Oh then, cried sir Thomas, I suppose
 ‘ he has sent her hither to be out of the
 ‘ way of some handsome young man or
 ‘ another whom she may have taken a
 ‘ liking to.’ — ‘ No, please your honour,
 ‘ said my uncle, I hope the girl has no
 ‘ such thoughts in her head as yet ;—my
 ‘ brother only lets her be here out of
 ‘ kindness to me, to look after my house.’

‘ A very pretty house-keeper, indeed,
 ‘ rejoin'd sir Thomas ; and I do not doubt
 ‘ but manages as well as can be expect-
 M 3 ed.’

‘ed.’ — ‘For her years, sir, said my
 ‘uncle.’ — ‘I dare swear she does, cried
 ‘my new lover; and if it were not for
 ‘robbing you, I should be glad to have
 ‘such a one to look after my affairs.’

“ I could not forbear blushing ex-
 “ cessively at these words; though I was
 “ far from imagining he had any design
 “ in them:—he said no more, however,
 “ at that time; but having ordered my
 “ uncle to bring home the plants he had
 “ bought of him, went into his chariot,
 “ though not without giving me a very
 “ amorous look as he passed by.

“ For my part, I should have thought
 “ no more of this stuff afterwards, but
 “ was very much surprised when I saw
 “ him come again the next day;—my
 “ uncle happened to be abroad, and I
 “ was sitting alone at work in a little
 “ room just by the door, which was wide
 “ open, and he came directly in.

‘Where is your uncle, my pretty
 ‘maid, said he, I would buy some things
 ‘of him:’ — ‘I reply’d,—that I believed
 ‘he was not far off, and I would call the
 ‘boy to go in search of him.’ — ‘It is
 ‘no matter, return’d he, taking hold
 ‘of my hand to prevent my doing as I
 ‘had

‘ had said ;—and to tell you the truth, I
‘ am glad of this opportunity of saying
‘ something to you that may be for your
‘ advantage.’

“ I wonder’d what he meant, but sat
“ down again on his bidding me ; — he
“ then told me I was a very pretty maid,
“ and would be more pretty still if I
“ was dress’d as I ought to be.’—‘ ’Tis a
‘ pity, said he, looking on me from head
‘ to foot, that such limbs as these should
‘ be employ’d in any hard or servile
‘ work.—I know very well that neither
‘ your father nor your uncle are able to
‘ do much for you ; therefore if you will
‘ be one of my family, you shall eat and
‘ drink of the best, — have fine silk
‘ cloaths, and have no business but to
‘ see that the servants do theirs.’

“ To all this I answer’d, that I was
“ very much obliged to his honour for
“ the offer he made me, but that I was
“ not accusom’d to the ways of gentle-
“ men, and in no respect qualified for
“ the place he mentioned.’

‘ Yes, — my dear girl, cried he, you
‘ are sufficiently qualified for every thing
‘ I shall require of you ;’—“ in speaking
“ these words he threw his wither’d
M 4 “ hands.

“ hands about my neck, and kiss’d me
“ with a vehemence which one would
“ not think his years capable of.

“ I protest to you, continued she,
“ that I was so foolish as not to apprehend
“ the base design he had upon me till
“ this last action convinced me of it.—
“ I struggled and got loose from an
“ embrace which was then so detestable
“ to me;—I told him that I was not
“ for his purpose, and that I never
“ would be the wicked creature he would
“ have me.’

‘ You are a little fool, and do not
‘ consider the value of the offer you re-
‘ ject, said he, throwing a handful of
‘ guineas into my lap.—See here,—your
‘ pocket shall be always fill’d with these
‘ to dispose of as you shall think fit;—
‘ you shall have what you please, — do
‘ what you please, — command me and
‘ my whole estate;—I desire only a little
‘ love in recompence.’

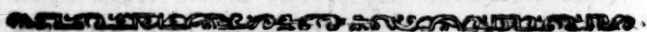
“ I despise all you can give or pro-
“ mise, answer’d I; therefore take back
“ your gold or I shall throw it out of
“ doors for your servants to pick up;—
“ poor as I am, I will not sell my honesty.’

“ It

“ It was not in this manner, my
“ Jessamy, pursued she, looking fondly
“ on him, that I withstood the attempts
“ you made upon my virtue ; — How
“ wide is the difference between love and
“ interest ? — My old Baronet, however,
“ took my behaviour as the effect of the
“ most pure and perfect virtue ; — he was
“ both amazed and charmed with it, and
“ approaching me with looks as respect-
“ ful as they had lately been presuming ;
“ — Well, my lovely maid, said he, I
“ will not henceforward go about to
“ seduce your innocence, — I love you,
“ but will endeavour to conquer my
“ desires.”

“ I answer’d in a tone pretty rude I
“ believe, — that it was the only thing
“ he could oblige me in ; on which he
“ stood in a considerative posture for
“ some moments, — at last coming out of
“ it,” — “ Celia, said he, looking earnestly
“ on my face, — it is my desire to do
“ every thing to oblige you ; and since
“ that will do it shall come here no more.”
“ — With these words he turn’d from me,
“ and it was with much ado I prevail’d
“ on him to take up his money ; but I
“ protested a single piece should not re-
“ main behind.”

Her ladyship was going on, but mrs. Comode, who was all complaisance, came in with tea, which occasion'd a small interruption, after which she resumed her discourse, as will be seen in the next chapter.



C H A P. XXV.

Contains the sequel of lady Hardy's story, with other matters of some consequence.

“ **A**FTER my old Baronet had left
 “ me, said she, and I had leisure to
 “ reflect on what had pass'd, though I
 “ was far from repenting of having re-
 “ fused the offer he had made of living
 “ with him; yet, to confess the truth, I
 “ thought there was no necessity for my
 “ giving myself the grand airs I had
 “ done, and that I might have taken the
 “ gold he would have forced upon me,
 “ without any breach either of my mo-
 “ desty or virtue; but this it was which,
 “ as he has since told me, gave him so
 “ high an opinion of my spirit and de-
 “ licacy, as made him think me worthy
 “ of

“of the dignity he was determined to
“raise me to.

“The third day after that in which
“he had been with me, a man and horse
“arrived from my father, with orders
“to bring me home directly.—I cannot
“tell whether myself or uncle were most
“surprised at this message, but am cer-
“tain that both of us were very much
“so.”—“Sure, said he, brother does not
“intend to take her from me without
“letting me know that I might provide
“for myself.”

“I can say nothing as to that, reply’d
“the fellow; but I believe she will not
“come back in haste; for he bid me
“tell her she must bring all the things
“away that she has here.”—“This con-
“vincing him that my father had indeed
“took it into his head to keep me at
“home, he complained bitterly of his
“unkindness, and asked the man a thou-
“sand questions concerning my being
“sent for so suddenly away, in none of
“which the other was able to give him
“any satisfaction.

“I was all this while in tears, which
“my uncle, poor man, imputed to my
“good-nature and sorrow for leaving him:

“ thus destitute ; but alas they proceeded
 “ from a cause very different from what
 “ he imagined, — that of being obliged
 “ to remove so much farther from the
 “ only place where I could ever hope to
 “ see my dear Jessamy again.

“ But there was no remedy, — the
 “ orders I had received must be sub-
 “ mitted to ;—I therefore went up to
 “ my room,—pack’d up my little ward-
 “ robe, which I gave to the man to put
 “ before him,—took leave of my uncle,
 “ —got upon the pillion, and with an
 “ aking heart trotted towards home as
 “ fast as the horse thus loaded could
 “ carry us.

“ On my arrival I found my father
 “ waiting at the door to receive me,—
 “ he lifted me off the horse himself,—
 “ kifs’d me,—said I was a good girl for
 “ making such haste to come when he
 “ sent for me ;—in fine, I never remember
 “ to have seen him in such a humour in
 “ my whole life : — my mother was the
 “ same,—she catch’d me in her arms as
 “ soon as she saw me, and cried,”—“ My
 “ dear Celia, thou wert born to be a
 “ blessing to us all.”—“ I was strangely
 “ surpris’d at all this complaisance and
 “ joy ; but as my parents made many
 “ circum-

“ circumlocutions in their discourse before
“ they informed me of the motive, I will
“ tell it you in a more brief manner.

“ Sir Thomas Hardy, it seems, had
“ been with my father, — told him he
“ had seen me at my uncle’s, — that he
“ liked me, and if he would give his consent
“ would marry me as soon as things
“ could be got ready for that purpose.
“ — You may be sure my father did not
“ make many words to this bargain;
“ and it was agreed between them that I
“ should be immediately sent for home,
“ in order to be cloathed according to the
“ station I was going to enjoy.

“ The astonishment I was in at hearing
“ all this is impossible to be express’d;
“ I shall therefore only say, that it was
“ such as almost turn’d my brain, and
“ for a good while allowed me not the
“ power of knowing whether I was most
“ pleased or troubled at an event so prodigious.

“ Early the next morning a servant
“ belonging to my lover brought me a
“ portmanteau, in which I found several
“ rolls of various colour’d silks, — a great
“ deal of lace and dresden work, with some
“ pieces of holland of an extraordinary
“ fineness ;

“ fineness ; — in the portmanteau was
“ also a small ivory casket, containing a
“ gold repeating watch and equipage, —
“ a set of diamond buckles for my stays, —
“ a large pearl necklace with a solitaire,
“ and several other trinkets of a con-
“ siderable value.

“ You may believe, continued she, that
“ my eyes were dazzled with the sight
“ of such things as I had never seen in
“ my whole life before ; but I had scarce
“ time to examine them thoroughly be-
“ fore sir Thomas came himself to visit
“ me ; — he told me he was glad to see
“ me at home, and ask’d me how I liked
“ the presents he had made ; — I was very
“ much confounded, but had courage
“ enough to reply, — that I liked them
“ very well, especially as they were ac-
“ companied with honourable intentions :
“ — this answer pleased him so much that
“ he could not forbear taking me in his
“ arms, though my father and mother
“ were in the room, saying at the same
“ time, — my dear girl, I can have nothing
“ for thee but the most honourable inten-
“ tions ; and what I have given thee now
“ are mere trifles in comparison of what
“ I will hereafter make thee mistress of.

“ He

“ He staid with us near two hours,
“ and before he went away gave my
“ mother fifty guineas, to pay for making
“ my cloaths, and to provide for me such
“ other things as she should find necessary,
“ earnestly recommending to her to get
“ all ready for our marriage with as much
“ speed as possible.

“ He might have spared himself the
“ trouble of this injunction, for never
“ were two people more eagerly anxious
“ for any thing than my poor father and
“ mother to see me disposed of in a
“ manner so infinitely beyond all they
“ could have hoped: — the persons em-
“ ploy’d in equipping me were so much
“ press’d and so well paid, that in a very
“ few days nothing was wanting for my
“ nuptials, which were celebrated by the
“ parson of the parish at my father’s
“ house, after which, I was carried to
“ that which is now my home, and as
“ pleasant a seat as any in the whole
“ county.

“ During the first week of our marriage
“ my head was so taken up with the
“ coach and fix,—number of my servants,
“ —the magnificence of every thing about
“ me,—the title of my ladyship, and the
“ com-

“ compliments made on that occasion,
 “ that I thought of nothing but my new
 “ grandeur ;—but all these things became
 “ less dazzling to me as they grew more
 “ customary, and all my relish for them
 “ vanish’d with their novelty.

“ The idea of my dear Jessamy now
 “ return’d to my remembrance,—I sigh’d,
 “ — I languish’d, and thought I could
 “ have exchang’d all my present opulence
 “ for one soft hour of love with that first
 “ and only charmer of my soul.

“ My husband’s fondness for me in-
 “ creased every day ;—but alas ! the en-
 “ dearments of a man of his years are
 “ rather disgustful than agreeable ; and
 “ I have often wish’d, that as it is im-
 “ possible I should ever have any love
 “ for him, that he had less for me, in
 “ spite of the advantages I receive by it.

“ In this fashion, my dear Jessamy,
 “ added she, I past two whole years,—
 “ quite hopeless of ever tasting more sub-
 “ stantial joys, till business calling fir-
 “ Thomas to London, chance has blest
 “ me with the sight of him who never
 “ has been absent from my mind.”

Jemmy

Jemmy, perceiving she had done, thank'd her for the gratification of his curiosity, and the share he had in her remembrance; and then reminded her that at their last meeting in the wood she had made a promise to him which he had now a right to claim the performance of.

“ If I had not intended to pay my
 “ debt, reply'd she with a smile, I should
 “ certainly have avoided the presence of
 “ my creditor.”—“ When then, cried he,
 “ where shall we meet? for I suppose
 “ this is no proper place for the conti-
 “ nuance of our interviews.”

“ You are mistaken, said she, mrs.
 “ Comode and I know each other per-
 “ fectly well;—sir Thomas carried me
 “ to Tunbridge last year, — she kept a
 “ shop there at that time,—I bought all
 “ my things of her, and we soon grew
 “ very intimate;—on my coming to town
 “ I renewed my acquaintance with her;
 “ and I am very sure of her readiness to
 “ oblige me in every thing I desire.

“ It falls out a little unlucky, indeed,
 “ pursued she, that we could not go up
 “ stairs to day;—but it seems some other
 “ company had appointed to drink tea
 “ there

“ there before mrs. Comode knew any
 “ thing of our coming.”

He then begg’d she would prefix a time for their happy meeting;—on which she told him that she was to go the next morning to see Windfor-Castle, and that sir Thomas propos’d staying there two or three days; but that as soon as they return’d he might be sure she would fly to her dear Jessamy with a transport at least equal to his own.

“ But how shall I be appriz’d, cried
 “ he, how know when to expect the blis-
 “ ful moment?”—“ I have a contrivance
 “ for that, answer’d she; I will send a
 “ little note to mrs. Comode, which you
 “ may either call for here, or she shall
 “ leave for you on your giving her your
 “ directions.”

“ I will not put her to that trouble,
 “ said he, nor fail to wait on her every
 “ morning till the dear mandate shall
 “ arrive.”—“ Then I will take care, rejoind
 “ she, to send the evening before in order
 “ to prevent you from being previously
 “ engaged elsewhere.”

Jemmy was beginning to express him-
 self in a very tender manner on this
 occasion,,

occasion, when the door immediately flew open and a lady rush'd into the room ;—perceiving company there she staid not a quarter of a minute, yet long enough to put them both into a good deal of confusion, especially Jemmy, who by this momentary glance discover'd she was one whom he had often seen with Jenny.

This was indeed that same officious friend who had told Jenny the manner in which she had surpris'd him ; but had he known with what moderation that young lady received the intelligence, it would have added, if possible, to the love and admiration he had for her.

But whatever vexation this accident might give him on his own account, he took care to conceal it under the appearance of his great concern for the reputation of his dear lady Hardy, who, after the first hurry of her spirits was over, seem'd perfectly easy, and endeavoured to make him so,—saying, that as she had been but three weeks in the town, and knew very few people in it, she did not apprehend any danger from this intrusion.

He gave but little attention to what she said on this subject,—second thoughts made

made him repent his promise of calling every day at mrs. Comode's, as there was more than a possibility of being met there again by the lady who had just left them, or of being seen by some other of Jenny's acquaintance.

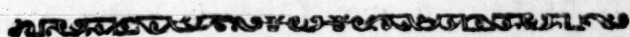
As soon as mrs. Comode had got rid of her customer, she came in and made an apology for what had happen'd, by relating the accident of the garter, as the lady had told it to her, assuring them withal, that the next time they did her the honour of a visit she would take care they should not be interrupted.

Lady Hardy then told her they had been settling a correspondence together, and was going to say in what manner it was to be conducted ; but Jemmy prevented her by crying out, - ' Hold, madam, ' business or company may detain me from ' receiving your ladyship's commands so ' soon as they arrive, — I should be glad ' therefore that mrs. Comode would be ' at the pains to send them directly to me.

The obliging shopkeeper reply'd, that she should always take a pleasure in serving lady Hardy or any of her friends ; — on which he told her his name, and that of the street wherein he lived.

After

After this nothing material pass'd, and lady Hardy not judging it proper to stay abroad too long, the lovers separated with a mutual expectation of seeing each other again at the same place in a few days.



C H A P. XXVI.

Will, in some measure, contribute to reconcile Jemmy to those who may have been offended with him.

HOW much soever Jemmy might be envy'd by the young amorous sparks of the town for the adventure he was now engag'd in, yet certain it is he felt less satisfaction in it than might have been expected either from his own years and warmth of constitution, or from the beauty and love of his mistress.

Celia of the woods, it is true, had at first sight inspired him with very strong desires; but then it was a transient flame, — a sudden flash of inclination, which ceased on being absent from the object; the idea of her charms had been long since forgot; and if it return'd, on finding her again in the person of lady Hardy,
it

it was but a faint resemblance of what he felt before, and could be called little more than the ghost of his first passion.

The reason of this is pretty evident,—there is a charm in innocence more attracting to a nice and delicate heart than any other perfection whatsoever ; — the harmless simplicity of the rural maid was not only now all lost in the fine lady, but exchanged for a certain boldness of looks and behaviour, and a spirit for intrigue, no way engaging to the penetrating Jemmy.

Besides, it must be remember'd, that when he first saw Celia he was two years younger, and consequently had less solidity, and perhaps a less sensibility of the merits of Jenny than he has since acquired, by being a more constant witness of them ; to this may also be added, that an amour with lady Hardy was not a thing of his own seeking, but rather in a manner forced upon him ;—a circumstance which in most men would have destroyed great part of the relish for it.

From all that has been said, it may very justly be concluded that Jemmy considered the affair he was entering into only as a mere matter of amusement for his senses,

JEMMY *and* JENNY JESSAMY. 263

senses, without allowing it any share in the affections of his mind; and it is a point which might bear some dispute,—whether had the business which so long detain'd him in London been completed, he would have staid one day longer in respect to lady Hardy, or have rather chose to have gone directly down to Bath.

An accident altogether unexpected, however, prevented him from being put to the trial, and left him not at liberty to do either the one or the other, by snatching him away at once from the pursuit both of his honourable and dishonourable flame.

The business he had so much complain'd of was adjusted while lady Hardy was at Windsor, and he now had it in his power either to wait her return to London or to go down to Bath;—he was perhaps debating within himself which of these two he should do when he received a billet from mrs. Comode, with a small piece of paper inclosed in it;—that from mrs. Comode contain'd these lines:

To

TO JAMES JESSAMY, Esq;

Honour'd sir,

" I JUST now have received the in-
 " closed from the lady you know of ;
 " —it was brought by her footman, un-
 " seal'd as you see and address'd to me,
 " to prevent all suspicion :—her ladyship
 " has a world of wit ; but you will easily
 " comprehend the meaning, and not fail
 " to favour with your company, at the
 " appointed hour, those who so much
 " desire it,—I am

" With the profoundest respect,

" Honour'd sir,

" Your most devoted,

" And most faithful servant

B. COMODE."

" P. S. You may depend, sir, that
 " every thing shall be order'd so as you
 " may be here in all the privacy you can
 " wish."

In the other piece of paper he found
 these words :

To

To mrs. COMODE.

Dear mrs. COMODE,

“ I CAME last night from Windsor,
“ and am in prodigious want of a new
“ robe de chambre, for I am quite weary
“ and sick of those I have by me ;—
“ therefore pray get me some patterns
“ of silks, such as you think I shall like ;
“ —I will be with you to-morrow at
“ five o’clock precisely to make my
“ choice.—I am

“ Dear Comode,

“ Yours,

“ HARDY.

“ P. S. Be sure you do not fail to get the
“ silks ready against I come.”

Whatever uncertainty his mind was in before this turn’d the balance, and he sent his compliments by the bearer to mrs. Comode, with an assurance that he would wait on her as she desir’d ; but he had scarce dispatch’d this message when a footman belonging to one mr. Ellwood came to let him know his master intreated his company immediately at his house, on business of the utmost importance.

This mr. Ellwood was one of those gentlemen who had been appointed by Jemmy's father for the trustees and guardians of his minority;—he was a man of great fortune, — great abilities, and yet greater integrity; — our young hero had a thousand obligations to him, particularly in relation to that perplexing affair he had lately been involved in, and which he could not so easily have accomplish'd without his kind assistance.

The eldest son of this worthy person had been a fellow collegian with Jemmy, —they had lived together in the most perfect harmony while at the University; nor had the friendship between them slackened since their quitting it:— they had not now seen each other for a considerable time, the old gentleman, who lived for the most part at his seat in Bedfordshire, having sent for his son in order to make his addresses to a young lady of that county, an heiress to a large estate.

The attachment Jemmy had to this family made him presently comply with the summons that had been sent him;— mr. Ellwood hearing he was come, met him at the top of the stairs, and with a countenance

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countenance which express'd the inward satisfaction of his mind, — ' Dear mr. Jessamy, cried he, I have news to tell you, which I am certain you will participate in the joy of; — my boy has gain'd his point, — the lady has consented, and we must go and see them tack'd together.'

Jemmy had heard much talk of this courtship, and that it went on very successfully, but did not think it had been so near a conclusion; — he express'd, however, the interest he took in so felicitous an event in terms the most obliging and sincere.

' I doubt not, said mr. Ellwood, but the goodness of your heart makes you pleased with every thing that gives pleasure to your friends; but this is not all we require of you, — Harry must needs have you a witness of his marriage; — he presses me to engage you to accompany me to Ham-Hall; — and here is a letter for you which he sent inclosed in mine; — I have not been so curious or so ill-manner'd as to open it; but I suppose it is on the account I mention; — pray see whether I am mistaken. . . .

Jemmy having taken the letter out of his hand, instantly broke the seal, and read aloud as follows :

TO JAMES JESSAMY, Esq;

Dear Friend,

“ I HAVE now done with hopes, —
 “ I fears, and suspense ; —the angel I
 “ have so long solicited has at last con-
 “ sented to be mine ; and I am shortly
 “ to enjoy a happiness which can have
 “ no alloy but the want of your pre-
 “ sence.

“ I would fain flatter myself, that the
 “ earnest desire I have to see you on this
 “ blest occasion will be sufficient to bring
 “ you to Ham-Hall ; but lest I should
 “ be too vain in this point, have in-
 “ treated my father, whose influence is
 “ questionless more powerful, to omit
 “ nothing which may engage you to ac-
 “ company him ; and in this expecta-
 “ tion remain,

“ With the greatest sincerity,

“ Dear Jessamy,

“ Your most affectionate friend,

“ And very humble servant,

“ H. ELLWOOD.”

This

This invitation very much disconcerted Jemmy; — the regard he had for those that made it render'd him very unwilling to deny, and the double obligation he had laid himself under, first of meeting lady Hardy at mrs. Comode's, and secondly of going down to Bath, made him not well know how to comply.

Mr. Ellwood, on perceiving he paus'd and seem'd in some dilemma, told him he would have no denial, and remonstrated to him that he could have no engagements in town with any persons who were more truly his friends than those who now desir'd his company in Bedfordshire.

Jemmy was a little ashamed at the reluctance he had shewn to this journey, and could find no better excuse for it than that which was indeed the chief motive,—his having promised Jenny to follow her to Bath, and the expectation he knew she was in every day of seeing him arrive.

‘ If that be all, cried the old gentleman, the difficulty is easily removed;
 ‘ —you have only to write to her, and
 ‘ relate the occasion that keeps you from
 N 3 ‘ her

‘ her somewhat longer than you intend-
 ‘ ed, and I will answer for her she has
 ‘ good-nature enough to pardon you.’

Jemmy, being still desirous of finding some excuse to avoid this invitation, repeated the discourse he had with Mr. Morgan, and the report which was spread about town in relation to his supposed infidelity to Jenny, urging the necessity of his being with her before she should hear any thing of it.

Mr. Ellwood laugh’d at the apprehensions he discover’d on this account, — reply’d, that it was not likely that such an idle story should be told her, especially while she remain’d at so great a distance from the place where it was invented ; — ‘ but in case, continued he, any malicious
 ‘ person should convey the scandal to her,
 ‘ as the thing is utterly without founda-
 ‘ tion, it may be easily disproved when
 ‘ you come together, and she would
 ‘ allow it a weakness in herself to have
 ‘ given credit to it.’

This, with some other arguments, assisted by Jemmy’s own unwillingness to disoblige him, soon decided the matter; and as Mr. Ellwood said he purposed to set out very early the next morning,
 Jenny’s

Jenny's lover took his leave to make what preparations were necessary for his departure, as well as to give an account to both his mistresses of what had happened.



C H A P. XXVII.

Contains, among other particulars, a more full explanation of Jemmy's innocence in some things which had very much the appearance of being criminal.

JEMMY had no sooner taken leave of Mr. Ellwood, than he wrote to Lady Hardy,—telling her, that an unavoidable necessity had torn him from his wishes ; — that he was compell'd to go into the country the next morning, and consequently must be deprived of the pleasure of meeting her, as he had hoped, according to appointment ; but added, that he should return in a very short time, and then enjoy the happiness he languished for. — This he inclosed in another to Mrs. Comode, with an intreaty that she would convey it as directed with all expedition and secrecy.

That necessary friend discharged the trust reposed in her with so much diligence, that on his coming home pretty early from Vaux-Hall, where he had been that evening with some company, he found a letter from mrs. Comode, with another inclosed in it from lady Hardy, in answer to his billet ; — the contents of both were as follow :

TO JAMES JESSAMY, Esq;

Honour'd sir,

“ I Know not what you will find in the
 “ inclosed, tho' it was wrote at my
 “ house, and I saw it wetted with tears
 “ falling from a pair of the most beautiful
 “ eyes in the world. — I doubt not,
 “ however, but you will soon dry them
 “ up : — it would, indeed, be a great
 “ pity that two such charming persons
 “ should have any cause of complaint
 “ against each other. — You will pardon
 “ this freedom, as it springs from my
 “ zeal for your mutual happiness, to
 “ which you may assure yourself I shall
 “ always be proud to contribute, being,

With the most profound respect,

Honoured, sir,

Your very faithful

And obsequious servant,

B. COMODE.

By

By this prelude he easily guess'd what was the purport of the other, so was not surpris'd at the reproaches it contained.

To JAMES JESSAMY, Esq;

SIR,

“ I HAVE just now received yours
 “ by the hands of mrs. Comode; and
 “ sir Thomas being abroad I have the
 “ opportunity of disburthening myself of
 “ some part of that mingled astonishment
 “ and grief your cruel epistle has involved
 “ me in. — Oh, mr. Jessamy, how can
 “ you treat with such indifference a
 “ woman who loves you to distraction!
 “ — nothing but yourself could ever
 “ have made me believe you were ca-
 “ pable of behaving towards me in this
 “ manner.—Is this the effect of all your
 “ soft professions? — Is this the recom-
 “ pence of the fondness I have shewn to
 “ you? — You find me ready to risque
 “ every thing for you,—virtue,—duty,
 “ reputation;—nay, the dangers of eternal
 “ ruin are too weak to deter me from flying
 “ to your arms : should any other engage-
 “ ment then,—any business,—any plea-
 “ sure, have the power to snatch you
 “ from me? — The excuses you make
 “ might have pass'd well enough with

“ me when I was the ignorant unjudg-
 “ ing Celia of the Woods; but time,
 “ reading, and observation has now in-
 “ formed me better, and I know what
 “ a woman has a right to expect from
 “ the man who has a real passion for her;
 “ — but I see you are insensible, — un-
 “ grateful, — yet still I love you; and,
 “ in spite of my resentment, cannot help
 “ wishing you a prosperous journey and
 “ a safe return. — You promise me that
 “ it shall be speedy; but I know not how
 “ to give credit to your words; the sooner
 “ you come back, however, the more
 “ you will be intitled to the forgiveness
 “ of

“ Your too much devoted

“ CELIA.”

“ P. S. Sir Thomas talks of staying
 “ in London all next winter;—this would
 “ be joyful news to me indeed, if I
 “ could flatter myself with a belief you
 “ wish’d it so; but dare not hope too
 “ much after the cruel disappointment
 “ you have given me.”

Till the receipt of this *Jemmy* thought
 he had done with lady Hardy till his
 return from *Bedfordshire*; but he now
 found himself under a necessity either of
 writing

writing to her again, or of giving her cause to complain of his want of politeness as well as love.

With the pleasures of an amorous intrigue there will be always some mixture of fatigue ;—Jemmy liked to enjoy the one, but was not of a humour to endure much of the other, especially at present ; and the tender reproaches and accusation in this letter seem'd to him so many impertinencies which he would gladly have been able to dispense with himself from answering.

He was also obliged to write to Jenny that same night, in order to give her an account of the motive that carried him to Ham-Hall, at the very instant that he was about to gratify his inclinations in following her to Bath ; but this was a task which he was far from feeling any reluctance in the performance of ; — so widely different are the effects of an honourable and a dishonourable passion.

This puts me in mind of a very just as well as beautiful Hieroglyphic, which I once saw among the paintings of Titian ; the capital figures in the piece were two Cupids, the one coming down from Jupiter in a milk-white robe, his sparkling eyes

wide open, and garlands in his hands of fresh and unmix'd sweets, ready to crown the brows of every faithful votary :—the other in a garment of a dusky yellow, spatter'd all over with black, seem'd ascending from the earth, — condens'd vapours encircled his head,—a bandage cover'd his eyes, and in his impure hands were wreaths of half-shed faded roses, thinly blended with thorns and prickly briars.

The ancients were extremely fond of expressing their designs by emblems, and this custom, which is as old as the Syriac and Chaldean, is still retain'd throughout the greatest part of Europe in the devices on their shields ; so that by looking on the escutcheon of any family, it is easy to know for what great action it was at first distinguish'd ; --and this, methinks, should remind those who wear them to act in such a manner as may render themselves worthy of the honours acquir'd for them by their progenitors ; — otherwise they are no more, according to the words of a late author, than

Dignify'd dregs of Britain's fall'n race,
Honour's dishonour, and fame's last
disgrace.

But

But this is not a work in which remonstrances are to be expected, nor perhaps would be greatly relish'd;—I shall therefore leave the world such as it is, and without being much of a prophet, one may say is like to be, and return to the subject of my history.

Jemmy wrote a long letter to his dear Jenny, in which he acquainted her with all the particulars relating to the journey he was about to take, in compliance with Mr. Ellwood's invitations; and express'd the utmost discontent at an accident which hinder'd him from going to Bath so soon as he had design'd, and hoped to have done.

Having finish'd this, he set himself about answering the complaint of lady Hardy, which he did in terms that have no occasion to be repeated, this letter having been already inserted in the fifth chapter of this volume, to which if the reader takes the trouble to turn back he will easily perceive to be the same that by one of the caprices of fortune fell into the hands of Jenny, and threw her into the condition there described.

Jemmy

Jemmy in this point acted like some careless Apothecaries, who, by fixing wrong labels on the potions they prepare, frequently destroy one patient by what would have given relief to another;—so he having seal'd both the letters before he wrote the superscription of either, directed that he design'd for Jenny to lady Hardy; and by consequence that for lady Hardy to Jenny.

Quite ignorant of the mischief his inadvertency would occasion, he sent a servant with these dispatches, — the one to be left at Mrs. Comode's, and the other at the Post-house.

About five the next morning the impatient Mr. Ellwood call'd on him in his travelling coach; — what unwillingness soever he had testify'd for this expedition, he had taken care that every thing necessary for it should be prepar'd against the coming of his friend, so being entirely ready, they set out together immediately, attended by the servants belonging to both of them.

The coachman having orders to make all the speed he could, the horses being full of spirit, the road good, and no bad accident retarding the progress of their journey,

journey, they arrived at Ham-Hall that same evening, where it is not to be doubted but they were received by the intended bridegroom with all the demonstrations imaginable of joy, — of duty to the one, and affection to the other.

The wedding was not solemniz'd till two days after, on account of some writings which had waited for the old gentleman to sign, he having agreed to settle a pretty large part of his estate upon his son at this marriage.

I will not trouble my reader with any description of these nuptials, though they were celebrated with as much magnificence as the rank of the persons and the place they were in would admit of, without incurring the censure of vanity and ostentation; — Jemmy stay'd there eight days, and was then obliged to tear himself away from his kind hosts, who would not have suffer'd him to part so soon but on the score of his impatience to be with Jenny, and the reasons he had given mr. Ellwood for it.



~~VARIOUS AND PLEASANT~~

C H A P. XXVIII.

Treats of such things as the author is pretty well convinced, from a long series of observations on the human mind, will afford more pleasure than offence, even among some of those who most affect a contrary sensation.

HOW strangely ignorant are we of our own hearts?—How weak a dependance is there to be placed upon our best resolves?—So true is this maxim of mr. Dryden's :

Men are but children of a larger growth,

Our appetites as apt to change as theirs,
And full as craving too, and full as vain :

Who that has heard with what reluctance Jemmy went down to Bedfordshire, —the insensibility he express'd for all the gaieties and pleasures of the nuptial feast, and the impatience he had to take his leave of friends who so much desired and valued his company ;—who, I say, that has been informed of all this but would have

have thought that, according to the promise he had made to Jenny in his letter to her from Ham-Hall, he would have done little more in London than just pass through it in his way to Bath?

Yet see the swift vicissitude, and how suddenly the rolling tide of inclination is capable of overturning those designs which even we ourselves have believed were founded on the most solid basis, and impossible to be shaken.

But I will not detain the attention of my reader with any superfluous remarks of my own, the fact I am going to relate will be sufficient of itself to prove the uncertain state of human resolution, and may serve to abate the pride of those who depend too much on their own strength of mind.

Jemmy, who during his stay in the country had his whole soul absorb'd, as it were, in the thoughts of his dear and deserving Jenny, had no sooner reach'd London than his stability began to slacken; and though he did not cease to love her with the same tenderness as ever, yet that burning impatience he had so lately felt to be with her became less fierce on something coming in his way which till he saw had almost slipt his memory.

He

He came to town in a post-chaise; but how his inclinations stood in regard to lady Hardy, or whether he would have endeavoured to see her before he went to Bath, is altogether uncertain; something however happen'd which turn'd the balance on her side, and reminded him both of her and the promise he had made in that letter, which he doubted not but she had received.

He alighted at a coffee-house which he was accusom'd to frequent very much; a stop of coaches happening to be in the street, he saw sir Thomas and lady Hardy in one of them, just opposite to the door he was going to enter;—she saw him too, and gave him a very significant look, which was all the salutation the place and company she was in would allow of.

A young amorous heart, I think, may with some analogy be compared to tinder, as it is ready to take fire from every spark that falls;—how cool soever Jemmy might have been some moments before, this sight sufficed to revive the glowing embers of desire, and made him think it would not become him to neglect totally so kind and fair a creature.

He

He supp'd that night with some company he met at the coffee-house ; but resolved to send to her by the way of mrs. Comode the next morning ;— the impatience of the lady, nevertheless, prevented his intentions, and on his coming home he was presented with a letter which his people said had been left for him by a porter above an hour before.

He opened it with some eagerness, not doubting from what hand it came, and found as he had imagined, the cover from mrs. Comode, with these lines :

TO JAMES JESSAMY, Esq;

Honour'd sir,

“ I SEND you what I dare say will
“ be a welcome present,—your answer
“ to it with the utmost expedition is requested, to be left at my house as usual ;
“ —I beg you, sir, to believe that I shall
“ always be ready to oblige you and the
“ beautiful party to the utmost of my
“ poor power, being

“ With the greatest respect,

“ Sir,

“ Your most obedient,

“ And most humble servant

“ To command,

“ B. COMODE.”

The

The contents of the inclosed were as follow :

TO JAMES JESSAMY, Esq;

SIR,

“ I SEE you are in town, but am far
 “ from assuring myself you have any
 “ thoughts of me ;—the violence of your
 “ passion for your charming Jenny, and
 “ the hurry you are in to follow her to
 “ Bath, may probably have made you
 “ forget that there is such a person in
 “ the world as myself ;— I send this
 “ therefore to desire one more interview,
 “ even though it should be to take an
 “ everlasting leave ;— my happy rival
 “ would not certainly regret your giving
 “ that satisfaction to a woman who loves
 “ you more than perhaps she is capable
 “ of doing : — honour and gratitude de-
 “ mand this from you,— to them I ap-
 “ peal, and shall commit my cause.

“ Since you went out of town, I have
 “ another misfortune added to that of
 “ having discovered your engagement
 “ with Jenny ; — mrs. Comode has lett
 “ her lodgings to to a person intimately
 “ acquainted with my husband, so it is
 “ utterly impracticable for me to see you
 “ there ;

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“ there ; and I am reduced, by this piece
“ of ill luck, to desire you will find out
“ some more proper place for our meet-
“ ing ;— whether it be at your own
“ house, or at that of any friend in whom
“ you can confide, is a matter of in-
“ difference to me,—only remember that
“ I will not venture to a tavern, bagnio,
“ or any such public place.

“ As I am convinced your heart, if
“ not wholly lost, is at least divided, I
“ should have little joy in the conti-
“ nuance of an intercourse so dangerous
“ to myself, and so negligently pursued
“ by you ;—you need not, therefore, be
“ under any apprehensions of my perse-
“ cuting you with a passion you seem’d
“ to have ceased desiring any farther
“ proofs of ;—happy should I be, indeed,
“ to find myself mistaken in what I have
“ so much cause to fear : — see me once
“ more, however, and fix the yet uncertain
“ fate of her who is,

“ With too much sincerity,

“ The unkind Jessamy’s

“ Still affectionate

“ And devoted,

“ CELIA.”

“ Postscript.

“ R. S. If you no longer have any
 “ love for me, let pity and good nature
 “ for that you have inspired me with
 “ prevail on you not, to keep me in
 “ suspense ;—I languish, I am distracted,
 “ till I receive your answer with an ap-
 “ pointment where and when I shall have
 “ the opportunity of telling you all my
 “ soul is full of.”

This passionate epistle gave Jemmy much more pain than pleasure, — not that he was either surpris'd or troubled at the knowledge he found she had of his engagement with Jenny ;—he was sensible a thousand accidents might reveal it to her, nor did he think she had any business to interfere with the honourable addresses he made elsewhere ; and, had she ever question'd him upon that subject, would not have evaded or deny'd the truth.

But it vex'd him a good deal, to find that the providing a place for their meeting was required of him ; — whatever amorous intrigues he had hitherto been engaged in had been accompany'd with no difficulties, — they had fallen in his way without any pains of his own, — he had never been put to the trouble of forming any contrivances for the carrying them
 on ;

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on ; and the injunction now laid upon him was a thing no less new than disagreeable to him.

Never had he been so much puzzled in his whole life ; — he judged it highly inconvenient, for many reasons, to make an appointment with her at his own house ; and as she had excepted against all those he should readily have proposed, he might well be at a very great loss to whom he should apply on such an occasion.

What course he took in this perplexing dilemma, and what consequences attended this adventure, as well as the catastrophe of many others mentioned in this work, the reader, if he has patience to wait, will find fully set forth and explained in the succeeding volume.

End of the SECOND VOLUME.



It may be said that the
and the question now laid upon
and was a thing to be done
and was a thing to be done

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What could he do in this
circumstances and what could he do in this
and the only answer to the question
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End of the Second Volume.

